



# Sugarloaf Ski Club



*75th Anniversary*



Winter 2024-2025





**Open Daily  
10am-5pm  
207.237.6990**



**Located  
in the  
Village Center**



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*Look for Pages from an Old Sugarloafer throughout the magazine.*

**75th Anniversary Committee Chair:** Joe Tutlis; **Committee Members:** Steve Arner, Kim Kearing, Christine Kendall, Bob Allen, Bruce Miles

**Magazine Design and Layout:** Katherine Ripley

**On the Cover, Cutting the Ribbon:** Bob Luce, Karl Strand, Bruce Miles, Joan & Bill Alfond, Kate Weber Punderson, Earle Morse





# Sugarloaf Ski Club

## Board of Directors

### April 2024



#### Front Row L-R

Russ Drechsel, Kate Webber Punder-  
son, Tracy Goller, Joe Tutlis, President;  
Brian Demshar, Nancy Holliday, Peter  
W Smith

#### Back Row L-R

Bruce Miles, Secretary/Exec. Director;  
Tom Hildreth, Erik Kankainen, Bob  
Allen, Patrick Willihan, Phil Hunter,  
Treasurer; Kim Kearing, Christine Ken-  
dall, Jim McCormack

#### Members absent from photo

Teddy Smith, Steve Arner,  
Vice President; Alex Godomsky, Joyce  
Tobias

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## Past Presidents

Virginia Bousum	2018-2022	Pat Andrews	1980-1981	Charlie Clark	1964
Bruce Miles	2004-2018	Frank Woodard	1979	Don Pfeifle	1962-1963
Lev Steeves	2003-2004	Charlie Murray	1977-1978	Burt Covert	1961
Sue Manter	2001-2003	Bob Waddle	1975-1976	Leo Tague	1959-1960
Charlotte Zahn	1999-2001	Bernie Carpenter	1973-1974	Harvey Boynton	1958
Greg Foster	1995-1999	Jack Smart	1972	Jay Winter	1957
Marvin Collins	1993-1995	Peter Spalding	1970-1971	Bill Kierstead	1956
John Lacasse	1990-1992	Skip Skaling	1968-1969	Scott Scully	1954-1955
Jon Hellstedt	1983-1989	Norton Luce	1966-1967	Robert Bass	1952-1953
Tina Hinckley	1982	John Christie	1965	Horace Chapman	1950-1951

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Dear Sugarloaf Ski Club Members,

For the past 75 years, Sugarloaf has grown into a brand celebrated by Sugarloafers worldwide. Our journey has been filled with remarkable changes, and as we look forward, we are grateful and proud to partner with one of the longest running ski clubs in Maine.

The Sugarloaf Ski Club remains a vital part of our mountain community. Your support and contributions over the years have transformed Sugarloaf into a premier eastern destination for top-tier ski and snowboard events. The addition of The Bill & Joan Alford Competition Center and hosting the US Nationals in the past decade have elevated our status even further. Your dedication has also helped foster some of the country's greatest ski and snowboard talent.

The successes of past Olympians like Seth Wescott, Bode Miller, and Emily Cook are due in no small part to the tremendous efforts of the ski club members and volunteers. Sugarloaf continues to support current ski club member and US Ski Team member, Sam Morse, as an endorsed athlete, and are looking forward to seeing where this season takes him. During the 23/24 winter, we were proud to cheer on three student-athletes who made their mark during the Youth Olympic Games held in Gangwon, South Korea. All three athletes secured top-10 finishes in their events and returned to Maine with two silver medals. We couldn't be more proud.

West Mountain, the largest single-year terrain expansion to happen in the Northeast has transformed the way skiers and riders enjoy Sugarloaf. Additionally, the Podium Project partnership between Carrabassett Valley Academy, Sugarloaf, the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Colby, and the University of Maine at Farmington ensures a bright future ahead, thanks to our continued collaboration and collective efforts.

Sugarloaf was founded by individuals with an unwavering passion for skiing. Through the decades, that passion has flourished, driven by the dedication of Ski Club members. Your steadfast commitment to the spirit of Sugarloaf and Carrabassett Valley is an invaluable part of our community.

On behalf of everyone here at Sugarloaf, I offer our congratulations on your 75th anniversary.

Sincerely,

Karl Strand  
President and General Manager

5092 Access Road | Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947 | [www.sugarloaf.com](http://www.sugarloaf.com) | 207-237-2000



Founded 1950



## SUGARLOAF SKI CLUB

9008 Main Street  
Carrabassett Valley, ME 04947  
207-237-6955

[www.sugarloafskiclub.com](http://www.sugarloafskiclub.com)

October, 2024

Dear Sugarloaf Ski Club Members and Friends,

It is my honor as the 31st president of the Sugarloaf Ski Club to offer our 75th Anniversary magazine to you. In it are articles that capture our history as well as the transformations that have occurred on Sugarloaf Mountain and Carrabassett Valley since the club's formation in July of 1950.

The Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club, as it was originally named, was pivotal in not only the formation of Sugarloaf Mountain as a ski area, but also in the establishment of Carrabassett Valley Academy and the Ski Museum of Maine. The club has also been a leader in the construction of the Jean Luce Competition Timing building, the Bill and Joan Alford Competition Center, and the CVA Colby T-bar.

In 2018 the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club combined with the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Education Foundation, our scholarship wing, to become the Sugarloaf Ski Club we know today. As a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit the club is better prepared to meet the part of our mission statement that states "to provide the opportunity for all youth to participate and excel in skiing and snowboarding". For our 75th anniversary season of 2024/2025 the club has budgeted over \$96,000 to distribute to local youth. Membership dues and donations, along with the Cardiac Club, the McKay/Waddle Race, the Sugarloaf Golf Club Classic, the King' Kids Fund, and contributions from the town of Carrabassett Valley are some of the funding sources that make this a reality.

I know that you will enjoy and learn from reading these articles that chronicle our proud heritage.

Sincerely,

Joe Tutlis  
President, Sugarloaf Ski Club

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A MAINE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

*Providing an opportunity for kids to participate and excel in skiing & riding*

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# Ski Club History to 1970

*written by Richard Bell*

*reprinted from the first Sugarloaf Ski Club magazine 1984-1985*

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It was in 1948 that the idea of developing recreational skiing in Maine was going through the minds of a few men and a meeting was called in Augusta by the Maine Development Commission. At this meeting nearly all of the few existing Ski Clubs in Maine were represented.

In this meeting, it was decided that the best way to promote skiing in Maine would be to form a statewide group with the specific aim being the furtherance of skiing. The Maine Ski Council was the result of this decision, and Robert Bass of Wilton was elected its first president.

Shortly after its organization, the Maine Ski Council appointed from its membership an Area Development Committee whose purpose would be

to look over all of those mountains in Maine which Maine skiers deemed as developable and determine which of these could be most feasibly turned into a ski area. Chairman Bruce White and his committee, Jim Thorpe, Wes Marco, Robert Henderson, and Horace Chapman, studied with considerable time and energy Saddleback, Sugarloaf, Andover region, Pleasant Mountain, Bigelow, Mt. Blue, Farmington, Old Spec and Baldface.

At this point, they went northwest to look at the mountains about forty miles north of Farmington as they knew of a Kingfield storekeeper who had cut a ski trail on the second highest of these mountains, Bigelow, with some local friends who had tired of driving to Pinkham Notch when, in their own

backyard, were mountains rivaling any east of the Rockies. Amos Winter, the Kingfield storekeeper, was having troubles of his own, for the Great Northern Paper Company was beginning to cut flowage around the base of Bigelow for the construction of massive Flagstaff Lake. This would render the ski trail inaccessible. So, our two stories coincide as the Maine Ski Council Committee looked north and west to the snow belt of Maine, Amos and his Bigelow friends were looking south a very few miles at Sugarloaf Mountain, 4,237 feet high, the second highest mountain in Maine. In 1949 the committee from the Maine Ski Council and the group of skiers from Kingfield came to Sugarloaf for a look. History shows us that they were impressed with what they saw, for the committee's report on its findings at Sugarloaf were favorable; and they concluded that this mountain had the greatest potential for skiing of any in the state. It had the best exposure, the best annual snowfall, and the smallest accessibility problem of any of the major mountains in Maine.

The year 1950, two years after the idea had originated in Augusta, was as important a single year as Sugarloaf has known. It was in this year that work was begun on the first ski trail, and the year that the Sugarloaf Ski Club was formed.

The former Bigelow Mountain skiers were happy to move their operations to the more impressive Sugarloaf and to have their tedious job of trail and road clearing augmented by willing hands from all over the state who real-



*First Base Lodge 1955*



*Winter's Way*

ized that the notion of a ski area on Sugarloaf would reach its fruition only after hours and hours of work. The Great Northern Paper Company owned the land where the ski trails should be and the Merrow Estate owned the land over which one would have to pass in order to get to the ski trails. And then of course there was the problem of covering the two-mile distance between Route 27 and the bottom of the ski trail, much of it through swamp.

The Great Northern Paper Company started the ball rolling with a 20-year lease to the Ski Club for the part of the mountain intended for skiing, and

the Merrow Estate followed with a gift of right-of-way to the area.

The summer of 1950 was a busy one on the Mountain as local boys, would-be-skiers, "hot shot" skiers from afar, interested friends of skiers, and authorities on ski area construction all gathered weekend after weekend to hack a trail out of the wilderness on Sugarloaf that started at a 15 degree pitch near the bottom and increased to 30 degrees as the timberline was approached. After the timberline was the skiers' dream-acre upon acre of wide-open fields of snow which settled into a 30-degree-plus carpet of corn snow as

the spring sun melted the snow in the lower region.

The Sugarloaf Ski Club derived its financial support in two ways. From the minutes of the first meeting, we read the words of the first secretary, Portland lawyer, Scott Scully, "At the end of the meeting the treasurer reported a balance of \$80 in the treasury as a result of a spontaneous burst of digging into pockets on the part of the group of those present."

That was one way of getting money, which was also represented by the donation of equipment and time by such organizations as the Dead River Company, which donated its bulldozer for use on the access road.

The other means of support was the sale of \$10 memberships in the Sugarloaf Ski Club.

In the roster of that first Ski Club meeting are names that have become linked with Sugarloaf and its progress. There were a dozen people at that meeting held at the Augusta House; and they were Fletcher Brown, Horace Chapman, George Albert, Wes Marco, Amos Winter, Bill Hatch, John Clark, Peg Clark, Phin Sprague, Scott Scully, Robert Taylor, and Odlin Thompson.

With the help of Sel Hannah, nationally known ski trail expert from Franconia, a trail 50-75 feet wide was laid out, spanning one and a quarter miles of the mountain from the snow-fields to the 1,800 feet elevation. The aforementioned members of the Ski Club augmented notably by George Cary and Kingfield boys Fred Morrison and Micky Durrell, under the guidance of Amos Winter had that trail, to be called Winter's Way, ready for snow for the winter of 1950. After the skiing ended in early May of that year, another summer of hard work began. The trail was widened and groomed, and a loan was floated whereby the road received

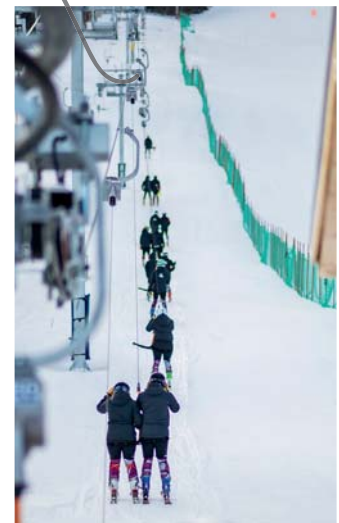


some much-needed gravel. Yet, the winter of 1951-52 still saw a long, hard climb from where the cars were parked to the crisp air and over-abundant snow of the snowfields. That was a good winter for snow, however; and the Portland Press Herald reported, "In April there were 5 to 15 feet of hard-packed corn snow near the summit." The Sugarloaf Schuss, which has since become a tradition, was held that year; and Wes Marco, race committee chairman, said that all competitors were looking forward to the next one.

The summer of 1952 saw ever-increasing activity. The trail was groomed and the hut was floored and completed, according to Fred Morrison, hut committee chairman; and Amos reported that Rand Stowell of Dixfield and the Forster Manufacturing Compa-



Donald Brooks, Mickey Durrell, Amos Winter, Hollie Sturgis, Dick French - 1955-1956 season





SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SKI CLUB  
KINGFIELD, MAINE

November 19, 1954

Dear Members and Friends:

Snow on the cone of Sugarloaf - November 1, 1954!  
It's a sight to cause anyone to pause and marvel and a sign  
that another ski season will soon be here.

The fourth annual meeting of the Sugarloaf club was held at Deer Farm Camps, Kingfield, on October 4, 1954 with 56 members present. It will be difficult for the incoming president to fill the boots (Bass of course) of his predecessor in office, but fortunately the following officers and directors were elected to guide and assist him:

Amos Winter	Vice President
William Poole	Secretary
George Langzettell	Treasurer
Robert Bass	Director
George Cary	"
Robert Scott	"
Owen Haskell	"
Walter Melvin	"
Clarence Wyman	"
Dr. William Kierstead	"

In view of the fact that in the last year the club spent about \$10,000 to complete the extension and surfacing of the road, we have enclosed the Treasurer's report to show where the money has been spent. You will note that the balance in both accounts will not go far when the road has to be plowed. We have enclosed a bill for dues for the coming year and are counting on the continued support of our membership. We hope you will also send in the names of any prospective members you may know.

For the coming year no major expenditures are planned. At a Director's meeting on September 10, 1954, it was decided that the bottom 500 feet of the trail, which is served by the rope tow, should be bulldozed in order to have skiing as early as possible and expenditure of up to \$100 was authorized for this purpose. A new lift line for the rope tow has already been cut by volunteers in the woods on the west side of the trail. Other volunteers have worked on the culverts in the road, on painting the hut and clearing trails between the snow-fields.

(2)

There is always more work for those willing to spend a day on the mountain. Mowing bushes in the trail has not been finished and if the logs were cleared from the trail, it would be easier to climb, easier to mow and the trail could be skied earlier in the season. A platform will have to be built for the rope tow and there are odd jobs to be done around the hut. Anyone looking for exercise please contact Amos Winter at Kingfield.

To help spread the word of Sugarloaf around the club has ordered a supply of emblems, red and blue on a white background which may be purchased directly from the treasurer or from Amos for \$1.50 each. There is also enclosed an automobile sticker, brief but to the point.

After the outstanding success of last year's race week-end we look forward to a repeat performance this year and sanctions have been requested from the Eastern for April 2-3. Before April comes around there will be plenty of the finest skiing in the East, you know where.

See you on the mountain,

*Scott W. Scully*  
President

P. S.

We have just received a supply of application blanks from the Eastern, one of which is enclosed. Anyone wishing to join the Eastern please return the completed blank to George Langzettell and include the Eastern dues.

ny had donated bulldozers for extending and improving the road which would culminate with a parking lot at the bottom of the trail. Of course there was talk of a ski lift, and in the summer of 1952 this talk increased. A ski lift, however, would cost money; road work had cost even more, along with toboggans, caches for the toboggans, and a warming shelter. In fact, no matter how much a lift was discussed, it would have to be a matter of time before one could be constructed. At an executive committee meeting in December 1952, the secretary, George Cary, wrote in his minutes, "The type, length, location or locations of up-ski devices were discussed-everyone thought one would be nice." How nice, they could only imagine what we now know.

The winter of 1952-53 was another in the ascension of Sugarloaf from a veritable unexplored wilderness to a major ski area. The road was in excellent shape, as was the trail. The Sugarloaf Schuss was gaining in popularity, as was the Mountain as an all-winter competition area. The Club was beginning to realize that a point had been reached at which real progress would slow down, and the ultimate goal would be far over the horizon unless a group or an individual with sufficient financial backing could take over the Mountain and develop it to its fullest. There was talk of this as the season of

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SKI CLUB  
KINGFIELD, MAINE

February 21, 1955

Dear Members:

1955 can be an important year in the development of Sugarloaf Mountain! Your attention is called to a Special Club Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 2nd, at 8:00 P.M. at the Worster House in Hallowell. This meeting has been called at the request of the Executive Committee which is composed of the Officers and Directors of the Club.

In recent months there has been increasing interest expressed in the formation of a corporation to finance the construction and operation of a lift (such as a T-Bar or Poma) on Sugarloaf. Some of the present officers and directors of the club are among those planning to organize and promote such a corporation.

The purpose of the Special Meeting is to authorize the Executive Committee in behalf of the club to enter an agreement with such a corporation granting the right to construct and operate a lift on Sugarloaf under the club's present lease with the Great Northern Paper Company. Although the details of such an agreement would have to be worked out between the parties, the Executive Committee has agreed that certain conditions would have to be incorporated in any such agreement. First, all those who have contributed to the fund for the construction of the road would have to be offered repayment of their loan. Second, the club would retain the right to maintain a lodge or clubhouse on the mountain with a means of access thereto. Third, the club would receive some compensation for the labor, time and expense which the members have devoted to the development of the area to date.

Since the by-laws provide that one eighth of the total Senior Membership of the club is necessary to constitute a quorum, any member who cannot be present at the meeting is urgently requested to return the enclosed proxy promptly.

Any member planning to attend the meeting who would like to have reservations made for dinner at the Worster House may likewise use the enclosed proxy for such purpose.

Sincerely yours,

*Scott W. Scully*  
Scott W. Scully, President  
SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SKI CLUB





1952-53 ended and the summer's work began. They realized that Sugarloaf was still small in the relationship between what had been done and what could be done. They knew that the Mountain would have to be publicized, and the press was kept informed of any developments which were taking place. And developments did take place in the summer of 1953, as the Mountain went into the following winter with a portable rope tow, a shelter at the timberline, and an income to be derived from a tow charge of \$1 per day for non-members and 50 cents per day for junior non-members.

The Club realized that this tow was only an interim measure and that far more expansive lifts would ultimately carry people up the Mountain,



*Amos and Alice*



*Second Ski Club Building Annual Meeting - 1954*

but a 10-horsepower rope tow was an important first step in the realization of this somewhat nebulous dream. A plea was made by the Club's President, Robert Bass, in the Portland Press Herald shortly before the 1953-54 season which read in part: "Robert N. Bass says that a chair lift to the top of the Mountain, plus modern accommodations in the vicinity would attract not only skiers from all over the East, but visitors in all other seasons who would use the lift to see the magnificent view from the summit. These, however, would call for the expenditure of a lot of money, far more than the Club will ever have. However, if private capital wishes to invest in this venture, the Club will give those involved all the cooperation possible."

Thus began the winter of 1953-54, and it was another snowy one. People were becoming convinced that an abundance of snow would never be a problem at Sugarloaf. The lift did its job of giving the leg-weary veterans of skin-encumbered hikes to the snowfields a well-deserved respite. Beginners

loved the gentle slope to the east of the tow and could log countless miles per day when previously a couple of trips would cause them to wonder if it was really worth it. The Sugarloaf Schuss was run in ideal snow conditions. The giant slalom was won by Les Streeter from Middlebury, who was later to become an auspicious member of the U.S. Olympic Team.

There was further talk during the summer of 1954 about getting added financial help from outside sources, and several channels were investigated by President Bass and Scott Scully. The Mountain withstood the blasts of hurricanes Carol and Edna with only minor washouts on the road. Amos and his crew further widened the trail at the base and at the juncture between the snowfields and Winter's Way.

The season of 1954-55 saw Sugarloaf Mountain, which four years ago was only an idea in the minds of a few people, with a one and a half mile trail, a two mile road, a parking lot, a cabin at the foot of the trail, a rope tow, first-

aid equipment, two toboggans, and an ever-increasing number of people with confidence that Sugarloaf would one day be one of the best.

This confidence was made manifest when in the middle of the 1954-55 season a group of men met (on March 24) at the Worcester House in Hallowell and formed the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation with Robert Bass as President, Richard Luce as Vice President, Richard Bell as Secretary and Clerk, and James Flint as Treasurer. This group went to work immediately with its Executive Manager, Amos Winter and its 13-man Board of Directors to issue \$100,000 worth of common stock at \$10 par. The Sugarloaf Ski Club received 1,000 shares of this stock in payment for the existing facilities already described, most important, of course, being the two and a half mile access road for which the Club had borrowed \$10,000.



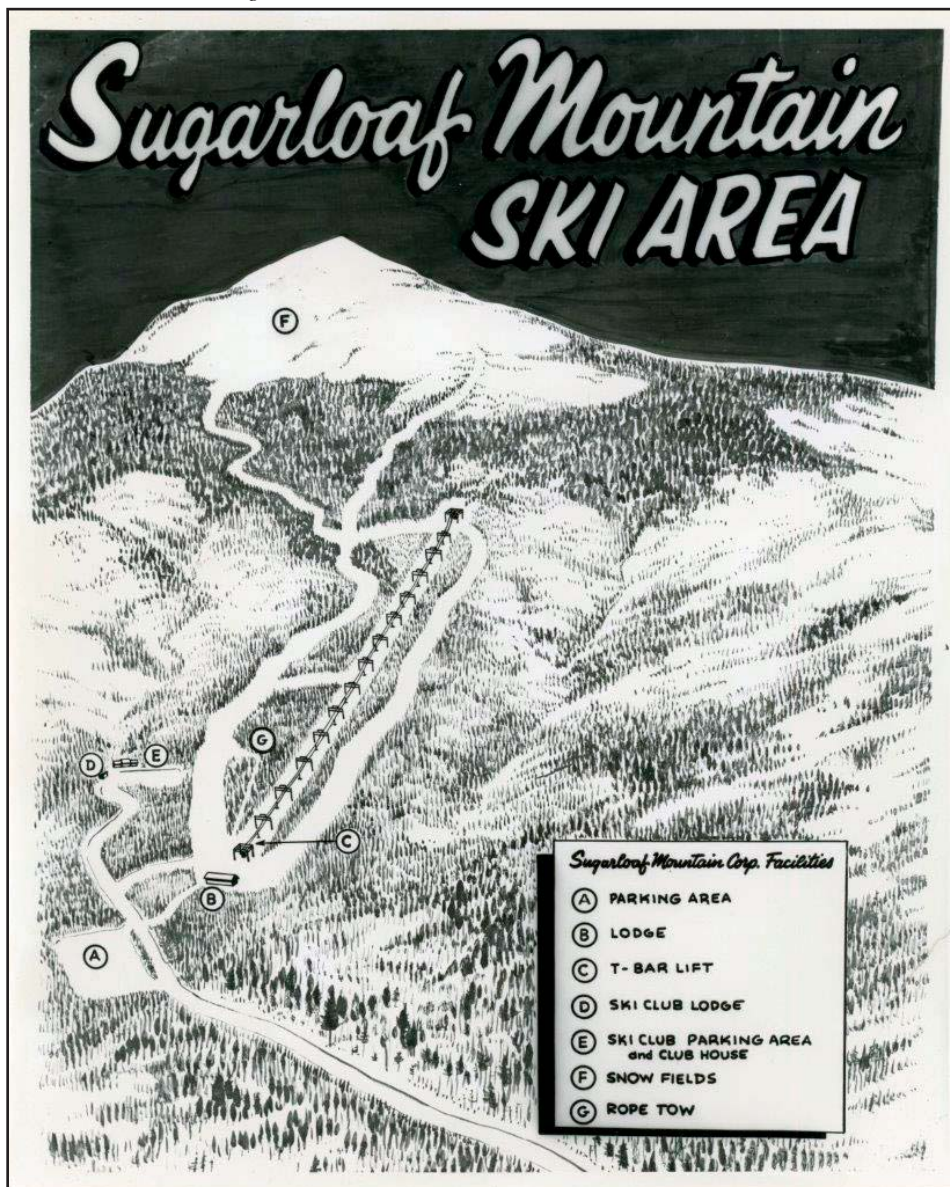
Happy Birthday  
Ski Club

Here's to 75 more!





*Amos Winter in the snowfields - 1952*



*Sugarloaf Ski Area 1955*

The summer of 1955 saw frequent meetings of the Board at the Worcester House, Sugarloaf, Wilton, Farmington and any other place where these participants interested in Sugarloaf could get together. The activity of the Board was exceeded only by the flurry of progress on the Mountain itself. After considerable discussion, an association with E.G. Constam Company of Denver was formed by virtue of the purchase of a 3,575-foot T-bar at the price of \$42,500. This lift, rising 887 vertical feet, was installed by Robbins Engineering of Westbrook and was ready for operation during the 1955-56 season. The Narrow Gauge, later to become a favorite racing trail with a national reputation, was cut as far as the top of the new lift. The first installment of the oft-improved lodge was constructed near the base of the new lift, and the Scribners from Stratton were leased the privilege of operating a food concession at the lodge.

Olivia Chereaux, a Swiss-born student at the University of Maine, was asked to run a ski school on the Mountain on weekends. An Oliver snow-packer tractor was purchased during February for grooming purposes.

The winter of 1955-56 was a highly successful and most encouraging one. The corporation realized a profit from the operation of the lift, and the Directors voted to put this amount back into the area and add it to the surplus available for future development.

The Mountain was beginning to get used to year-round activity as Amos and his crew started once again a program of extensive improvements to prepare the area for the 1956-57 season. A new \$35,000 Constam T-bar lift was purchased and installed by Robbins Engineering. The lodge was nearly doubled in size, allowing room for an expanded





*A. Winter, B. Nickerson, and J. Christie with the first official Sugarloaf Vehicle - 1964*

commissary, manager's office, ski shop, first-aid and modern restrooms. The Narrow Gauge was extended from the top of the original lift to the edge of the snowfields while the lower half was groomed and widened. Brooks Dodge tramped the west side of the area and came up with the plan for the Tote Road, two and a half miles of one of the best trails in the East. A warming hut was built approximately halfway down this trail for those who preferred to run the trail in two installments. A Sno-Cat with rollers was purchased, and a garage was constructed to house the increasing amount of equipment dictated by the expanding area. The new lift, 2,609 feet in length and rising 1,008 vertical feet, was completed in the fall and was ready for operation.

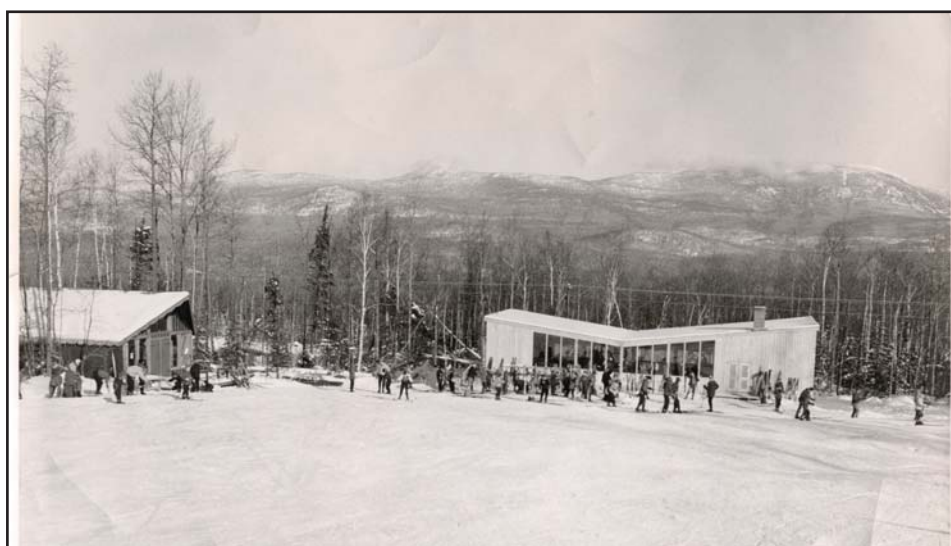
Bill Briggs was named head of the ski school and operated the school seven days a week. The only sour spot in the season of 1956-57 was the snow drought, which hit all of the eastern ski areas and seemed to continue interminably through the winter. The operating

income, despite the paucity of snow, was 63 percent greater than the preceding season. \$80,000 worth of new stock was offered and buying was enthusiastic. Plans got underway early in the spring for the summer of 1957 expansion program. Early in the summer, Werner Rothbacher, certified Austrian instructor and proponent of the new Austrian technique, was contracted to head the ski school for the following season. The

advertising firm of Ad-Ventures, Inc. of Portland was chosen to handle the Mountain's publicity.

The summer saw extensive grooming work done on the existing trails, safety devices installed on the lifts, and expansion of the ski patrol, its equipment, and further work on the access road. Thus opened the season of 1957-58. An ambitious Junior Program was embarked upon by Rothbacher and his staff. Competitive skiing was on the up-swing, and several races in the late winter and early spring pointed to Sugarloaf as a major competition area. The Sugarloaf Schuss drew the largest field in its history; and as the season progressed, it became apparent that the existing up-hill facilities were not sufficient to handle the throngs of skiers on the Mountain.

The summer of 1958 was another busy one; the capacity of the lower lift was increased to 800 passengers per hour, and the terminals of the upper lift were housed. An excess of \$10,000 was spent on straightening, surfacing and generally improving the access road, a new parking lot was added, and improvements made on the old ones. Rothbacher and his Austrian staff returned for the 1958-59 season with Roger Page



*First wing of the second base lodge - c. 1960*



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heading the Junior Program.

The season began early in December, and the newly cut novice area proved to be popular with the skiers who preferred to stay clear of the well-traveled thoroughfares.

The summer of 1959 was an important one in the “once-upon-a-time” progress of Sugarloaf Mountain. Close to \$10,000 was spent in completely relocating the base area, constructing a new 1,674-foot Constram T-bar lift, and a new two-story lodge. The old parking lots were parking lots no longer as they were replaced by a massive 15-acre beginners’ area. New parking lots were bulldozed with a capacity of nearly 1,000 cars, and the road was improved.

As if the weather were in cooperation with the optimistic expansion of the ski area, 1959-60 was a banner winter with plenty of snow, which was becoming an old story on the Mountain.

The summer of 1960 was marked for further improvement as a 4,600-foot lift line was bulldozed to the left of the existing lift complex; and a new wing, larger than the original section was added to the lodge. A second Sno-Cat joined the other in the equipment garage. The upper trails were further groomed, and a new trail, the Double Bitter, was cut from the top to a junction point near the bottom of the Tote Road.

These jobs having been accom-

plished by the able summer maintenance crew, the area was ready for the 1960-61 season. This was the year that saw more plentiful snow and more enthusiastic participants. The stature of Sugarloaf as a competition area was enhanced by the Junior National Championships, ably sponsored by the Sugarloaf Ski Club after ice was the order of the day at Stowe.

The summer of 1961 was dry and hot, the kind of weather that would enable a ski area to build two lifts and three trails. And that is what happened at Sugarloaf. Two new Constram T-bar lifts, 4,574 feet and 3,160 feet, respectively, were placed in tandem rising 1,872 vertical feet from a

point a short distance east of the lodge to the edge of the snowfields.

The Ram Down and the Widow Maker in conjunction with a skiable power line added nearly five miles of downhill running. The new complex afforded an alternate access to the snowfields and to the old trail system by the utilization of old Winter's Way.

The large bend in the swamp was removed from the access road and new gravel was added to a considerable length of the road.

Further grooming was done on the old trails, and the Mountain, nearly doubled in size, loomed as one of the major areas in the East.

It was obvious, due to the expanded area, that Amos would need able help for the coming season; therefore, Sugarloaf gained an assistant manager, John Christie, who was chosen from a

number of promising candidates.

The winter of 1961-62 was marred only by a frozen granular condition in January, which was offset by the best and last spring skiing in the East.

By the end of 1962 the Mountain owned its own bulldozer, mowing tractor, and two Sno-Cats. Five T-bars, two lodges, Austrian ski school, 10-man ski patrol, and extensive first-aid equipment augment the picture. All lifts are equipped with automatic safety devices and powered by electric motors with the two original lifts maintaining their gas engines for auxiliary purposes.

George Cary was elected President of the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation in 1962, and the growth of Sugarloaf continued at its rapid pace. A third section was added to the base lodge in 1963. A small tract of land at the summit of the Mountain was leased to the Som-

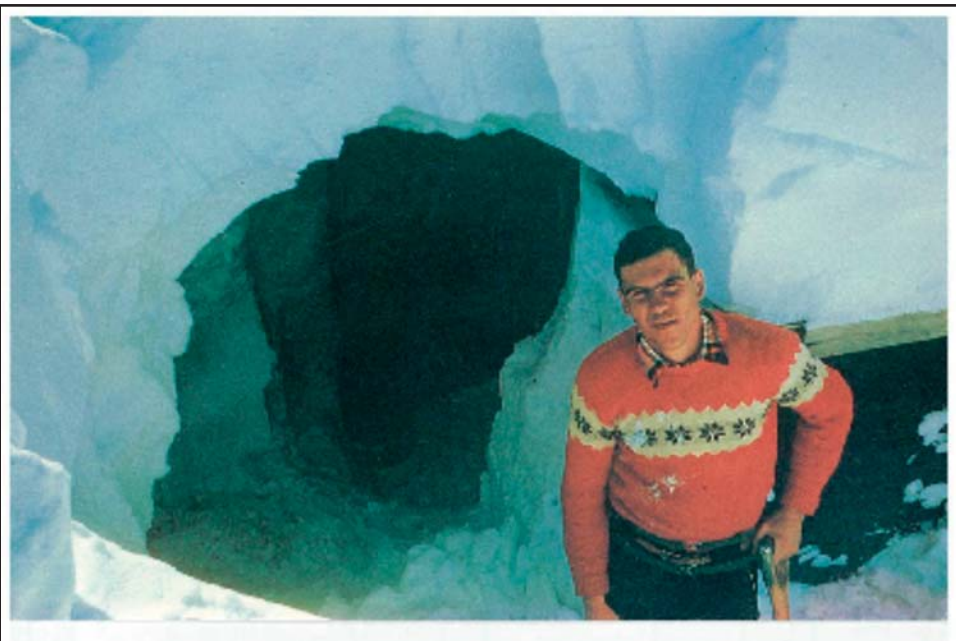
erset Telephone Company and a strip of land from the summit to the base of the lifts for an access road was carved out of the side of the Mountain.

It was over this three mile road that 700 tons of material for 400 yards of concrete, 400 tons of prestressed concrete slabs for walls and floors, seven tons of tinted double pane plate glass, 23 tons of three inch thick western cedar for the roof, and 60 tons of steel were hauled for the construction of the Summit Restaurant at the 4,190-foot level of Sugarloaf Mountain.

During the summer and fall of 1965 and into the winter, work went on at a feverish rate. Transit mix trucks and huge cranes operated under the direction of George Cary and in January 1966 the 8,430-foot gondola was completed and its 50 four-passenger cars were taking people to the summit of the Mountain. Skiers could now ride in comfort to the famous Sugarloaf snowfields.

Ever increasing numbers of skiers each year made it necessary for further expansion. John Christie left us and went to manage the Mt. Snow area in Vermont. King Cummings was elected President of the corporation and Harry Baxter was elected General Manager. 1969-70 was another great year of progress under the direction of President Cummings and Manager Baxter. A new 5,360-foot double chairlift was installed with a capacity of 1,000 passengers per hour.

The Sugarloaf Inn was purchased from Pfeifle Enterprises and a



Stub Taylor digging out the T-Bar top shack - 1958

*Saturday, April 19, 1958: Sugarloaf reports an official snow cover of 99-155 inches. The Access Road was clogged with snow. The roof of the ski patrol warming hut at the top of the T-bar was several feet below the snow level. Wonderful skiing on a warm day. We climbed up from the top of the T-bar to the summit and skied the Snowfields.*



new double chair erected, reaching from the Inn to the base lodge.

Twenty beautiful condominiums were built during the summer of 1970 and are now owned and occupied by Sugarloaf skiers.

There seems to be no end to things that are planned for the future of Sugarloaf.

In the competition phase, Sugarloaf has hosted the first Sugarloaf Schuss, 1952; Junior Alpine Championships, 1957; NCAA Championship, 1967 and the World Cup and Arlberg Kandahar races, 1971.

What more can one say, except that it has been a tremendous and enriching experience to have been a part of the development of Sugarloaf/USA.



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# Timeline of the Sugarloaf Ski Club and Sugarloaf Mountain

*By no means all-inclusive, here are some dates and events of interest; compiled by Bruce Miles with help from Greg Foster; dates are as accurate as they can determine. Thank you to John Christie and The Story of Sugarloaf for making it easy to find the dates.*

---

1950 July 31 - Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club formed

Horace Chapman elected first president

In fall, work begins with volunteers cutting Winter's Way and 2 mile access road

1951 Andrew Titcomb writes *Skiing Maine's unknown Snowfields* about his Sugarloaf experience

First loan secured, \$1,000 from Farmington bank, but never used; donations covered costs

*Saturday, April 4, 1959:  
We left at 5:00 a.m. this morning for Sugarloaf and picked up Dr. George Hallet at the Maine Turnpike. It was foggy and drizzly and only one trail was open from the top of the lower T-bar. It was better than no skiing at all, most of the other ski areas are shut down for the year.*

1952 Club runs first Sugarloaf Schuss race, Ted Hawkes and Edith Curtis win First "lodge" built

1953 First lift, a 700 foot rope tow, installed First lift tickets are \$1 per day adults, \$.50 kids under 12.

1955 Robert "Bunny" Bass is the first president of the corporation  
Club issues first Stock and Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation is formed  
The money raised is used for the first t-bar, 3,750' long  
The Narrow Gauge trail is cut

1956 First ski school director Ollie Cheseaux hired

56-57 Second t-bar, 2,600 feet long, is built above first t-bar  
The Narrow Gauge extended, The Sluice and The Tote Road trails cut



First Club House



# CONSTRUCTION THAT BUILDS COMMUNITY



*Aerial View - 1955-1956*

- 57-58 Judson's is built, followed by Chateau des Tague  
Harvey Boynton's ski shop is built on the mountain
- 1959 Base area relocated, 3rd t-bar installed, The  
Bunny Slope enlarged  
Three t-bars are renumbered  
Boynton's ski shop is relocated and expanded  
"The Beach" is established on the roof of Boynton's
- 60-61 Jr. Nat'l Alpine Championships moved from  
Stowe to Sugarloaf's better conditions  
Sugarloaf Ski Club proved it was ready to do a major  
event even at the last minute  
Sugarloaf Inn is built on mountain  
T-bars #4 and #5 built  
Ramdown, Widowmaker, Buckboard and Pole Line  
trails cut
- 1961 Power and telephone lines are extended from the  
mountain to the valley
- 1962 Boomauger, Bubblecuffer and Wedge trails cut  
Capricorn inn built
- 1964 Gondola line is cut (it was not yet known what kind  
of lift would be used)

- 1965 Gondola is installed: 8,430' long, rising 2,350' vertical  
Sugarloaf/USA is born
- 1966 Lumberjack Lodge is built
- 1967 NCAA Alpine and Nordic Championships held, hosted by  
UMaine & Colby Championships included jumping
- 1968 Valley Crossing is built during summer and opened for 68-  
69 season
- 1969 Mountain opens on November 10th with 34 inches of snow SSC  
forms SRSEF, a nonprofit to foster ski programs for young  
athletes.  
Playboy chooses Sugarloaf for a story and the "Dump Party" is  
made famous  
Record snowfall of 347 inches, mountain has a full six month  
season
- 69-70 Bucksaw double chair lift opens with several new trails

*Sunday, February 21, 1960: I encountered glare ice on the road in New Portland and slid into the backside of a milk tank truck. I hit the steering wheel and then smashed the windshield but nobody else was hurt. State Trooper Joe Tufts gave us a ride to Kingfield and we hitchhiked to the Mountain. We found one of the largest crowds in Sugarloaf history with enormous lift lines. We had to evacuate the lower T-bar on the first run because 23 people (I counted them) piled up half way.*

# Happy 75th Birthday Sugarloaf!



Proud Sugarloafers since 1958

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Audi

Mazda



- 1971 Tall Timber Classic World Cup held  
Arlberg Kahndahar trophy presented  
outside Europe for first and last time  
First condominiums are built
- 1972 Jerusalem Township is incorporated as  
town of Carrabassett Valley  
Route 27 is designated a scenic corridor  
Radio station WTOS is launched  
Ski Rack store, Blue Ox lodge and Village  
Center are built
- 1973 Double Runner chairlift opens
- 1974 Town of Carrabassett Valley Cross Country  
Center opens  
Spillway East chairlift is installed, along with  
Snowmaking
- 1975 Town annexes Sugarloaf Township, creating  
largest town by area in Maine  
Bigelow Preserve is created  
Appalachian Trail section is moved from  
Sugarloaf to Crocker Mountain
- 1978 Cardiac Club is formed
- 75-81 Real estate growth continues in leaps and  
bounds
- 1980 Sugarloaf hosts U.S. National Freestyle  
Championships, first of many times

*May 6, 1961: Free skiing at Sugarloaf  
for the weekend. Lots of snow, almost no  
bare spots and a huge crowd. I hiked to  
the summit with Jim Cunningham, Don  
Logan and Ron Kirkwood and skied the  
Snowfields and down into Upper Winter's  
Way.*



AerialView - 1956-1957

**sugarloaf ski club**  
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- 1981 Paul Schipper starts his "Streak"—skiing every day the mountain is open
- 1982 At the age of 80, Amos Winter passes away  
Sugarloaf Golf Course is approved by town voters
- 1983 Spillway West chairlift is built  
CVA (an offspring of the ski club) opens with 15 students
- 1984 World Junior Alpine Championships is hosted
- 84-85 Sugarloaf Golf Course and Village on the Green are developed  
West Mountain is developed along with a chairlift and trails  
Sugarloaf Hotel construction begins
- 1986 Chapter 11 hits Sugarloaf after rapid expansion
- 1987 500 year flood hits the area, knocked out bridges and complete sections of Rte 27  
Flood caused much golf course damage
- 1988 Whiffletree Quad and King Pine Quad are installed  
Haulback area is developed  
Skidway double chair lift is installed, removing t-bars #1, #4 and later #5
- 1989 CVA starts snowboard program
- 1990 U.S. Masters National Alpine Championships held
- 1993 Sugarloaf creates a department to run competitions, And takes financial responsibilities from SSC
- 94-95 Comp Center moves from Dick Bell Chapel to vacant gondola base terminal building  
Sugarloaf is purchased by S. K. I., which owns Killington Superquad is added west of the base area  
Ski Museum of Maine is formed by Don Hayes, Greg Foster and Don Fletcher



*AerialView - 1960*



*AerialView - 1963-1964*



*AerialView,World Cup Map - 1971*



- 1996 S. K. I. is purchased by Les Otten, American Skiing Company forms  
Whiffletree chair lift is replaced with a Superquad  
Old Whiffletree lift is moved to Timberline, giving lift access to summit once again  
Stub Taylor retires from Ski Patrol
- 1997 ASC goes public and expands to western USA  
Sugarloaf hosts both alpine and freestyle championships
- 1998 U.S. Freestyle Championships are once again hosted
- 1999 Town buys Crockertown public lot from state  
Anti Gravity Center and Narrow Gauge Pathway are built  
Founder's Night is celebrated at the Red Stallion, its last party ever  
16 inches of snow falls during the night
- 2000 Sugarloaf Ski Club celebrates its 50th anniversary  
Mountain sees over 355,000 skier visits  
Ironman award is established in honor of Paul Schipper
- 2005 The "Streak" ends at 3,903 days  
A section of Lower Narrow Gauge is named "Schipper's Streak"  
The new golf course clubhouse opens
- 2006 Sugarloaf/CVA Graduate Seth Wescott wins Olympic Gold  
Sugarloaf and Sunday River purchase wind power generated electricity
- 2007 In April, the Luce Competition Facility and Melvin Timing Room are dedicated  
In the summer, Boyne USA buys Sugarloaf and Sunday River  
In the fall, John Christie publishes long awaited "The Story of Sugarloaf"  
SSC hosts autograph session for 500 book buyers  
Gondi mid-station is removed



*Aerial View, West Mountain Expansion - 1984*



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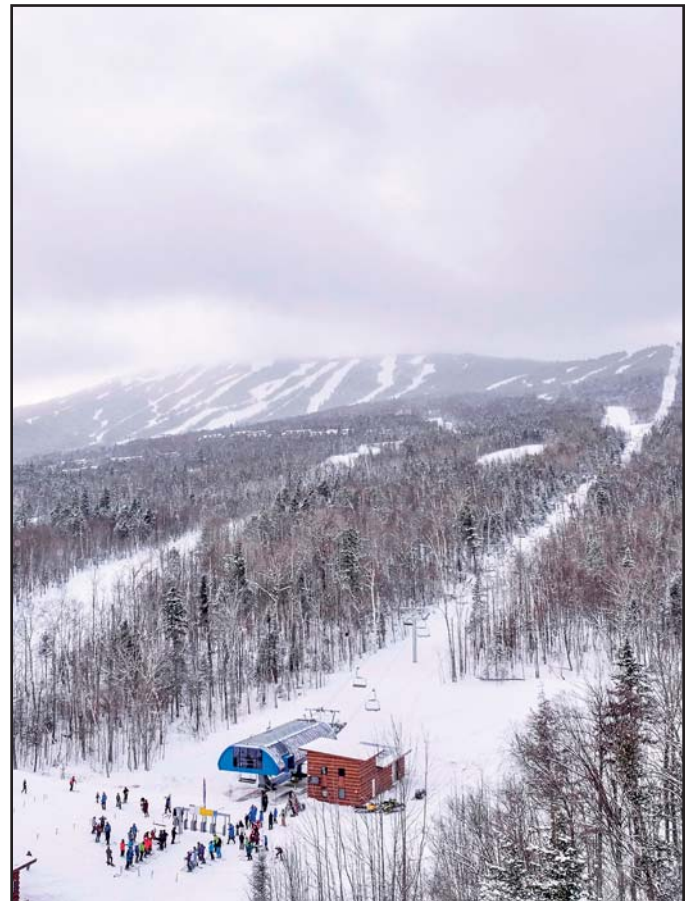
*December 26, 1962: Very cold and windy, which kept lots of people off the Mountain, but the skiing was good. After skiing I hung around the lounge in the newly opened Capricorn for a while where John LaCasse and Steve Crabtree were working the bar and waiting on tables. Tom MacDonald, one of the ski instructors, invited me to stay for the night at his unfinished a-frame in return for some help with the flooring.*

2008	U.S. Alpine Nationals are held once again First Maine Ski Heritage Classic is held	2014	Chateau des Tagues ( first opened in 1957) is razed to make way for the SugarBowl March 6-7 - "Hole Shot" held. Six CVA athletes attend Junior World Championships
2009	First Children's CAN-AM; best Eastern U.S. and Canada 12 yr-old ski racers compete Snowboardcross course is opened by Seth Wescott Revolution Tour comes to Sugarloaf Seth Wescott makes a plea to the town and to Boyne for a new Gondola Lift "shacks" receive major makeover in the summer	2015	Bucksaw removed Mtn. opens Nov 21 March US Alpine Championships held
2010	Sugar Shack is built on the Landing; Sugarloaf expands into maple syrup production Children's CAN-AM returns Sugarloaf Charity Summit breaks million dollar mark in funds raised over 10 year history Seth wins Olympic Gold again Five Sugarloafers compete in ESPN X-Games	2016	Dec 3rd & Joan Alford Competition Center dedicated Feb 29 "Hole Shot" held March 11-12 WinterKids DH 24 held at Sugarloaf for first time
2011	John Rtizo steps down as Head and Kate Punderson hired as Head of CVA May 1 - Spillway retired with a big send off. With Ski Club's help, The Ski Museum of Maine auctioned off the honor of being in the last chair to run on Spillway. 100 Sugarloafers joined in to participate in the event which started at 4pm on a beautiful cloudless day and ended with a cookout gathering at the Jean Luce building. The Museum raised over \$12,000 with this uniquely Sugarloaf event. Dec 17 - Skyline Quad Chairlift opens	2017	U S Alpine Championships held; Sam Morse becomes Junior World Downhill champion at Are Sweden, CVA and Sugarloaf designated "US Ski & Snowboard Team Development Site and High Performance Center"
2012	Andrew Willihan hired as head of S/CVA program. Club hosts its first "Beer Tasting" evening. It was a great success thanks to Ginny, Nancy and their many helpers. March - Tony Boffa returns for SnowBall Maine Hut's Stratton Brook Hut opens	2018	Nov. 12 mtn opens March 7-8 "Hole Shot"/"Rev Tour" held, Sugarloaf Ski Club & SRSEF merge to form new Sugarloaf Ski Club a 501c3 charitable foundation
2013	CVA opens new 17,000 square foot academic center. Lloyd Cuttler retires from the restaurant business ending a 37 year ownership of Gepetto's restaurant. Because of his long time commitment to helping the club, Lloyd is presented with a lifetime membership.	2019	January - Sugarloaf Ski Club in partnership with Perfect Turn launches the Boomauger Program, a low cost learn to ski/snowboard program for local kids. Aug. 24 - Robert "Stub" Taylor Sugarloaf's first & longest Ski Patrol Director & one of the original "Bigelow Boys" who helped cut Winter's Way Trail passed away at 85.
		2020	Sugarloaf unveils the Sugarloaf 2030 road map which includes new lifts and real estate offerings. Adding 12 new beginner/intermediate trails spanning 120 skiable acres with the addition of the Bucksaw Express chairlift, this new zone encompasses new real estate opportunities, the first being Dutchman Woods. 20 lots were offered for sale in the first phase of single homesites. June - After 65 years Tranten's store has new owners but same commitment to the community when the Three Rivers family closed on the purchase of Tranten's Family Grocery and Tranten's Too Convenience Store in Kingfield, ME. It is now being re-branded as Mainely Provisions and Mainely Convenience.



- 2021 Kirk Dwyer returns to Maine to join CVA's senior administration and alpine coaching team. US Alpine Championships held. Sugarloafer Forest Carey named U S Alpine team head men's coach. Former Sugarloaf General Manager Harry Baxter inducted into Maine Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Steve Sitz retires after 17 years with CVA as teacher, it manager and ending as Finance Director
- 2022 Joseph Tutlis becomes Sugarloaf Ski Club's 31st President  
The Podium project gets underway on Lower Competition Hill. Over 25 athletes from CVA and CVAWP head to Colorado for USASA National Championships.  
Sugarloaf Ski Club establishes the Ginny Bousum scholarship in her memory.  
December - "Bigelow Boy" Howell McClure dies at age of 97. "Amos Winter would take them to Bigelow Mountain to climb and ski and cut trails in the summer which they would then ski down in the winter. Later, some from this group were the initial skiers at Sugarloaf Mountain. Howell was the last remaining Bigelow Boy."
- 2023 Sugarloaf commences work on the first big expansion in many years. West Mtn project which includes several new trails, a new high speed quad chair and increased snowmaking along with single and multi family real estate offerings called Dutchman Woods.  
Nov 17 - Mountain opens  
Feb 16 - Bucksaw Express opens with several new trails and increased snowmaking.  
Dec 9 - A tribute to Sugarloafer and Maine Ski & Snowboard Hall of Famer Donald Fowler was held in the King Pine Room of the Base Lodge. Over 200 friends & family attended. They were there to honor Donald for his lifelong commitment to Sugarloaf and his passion for skiing.

- 2024 Kate Punderson steps down as head of school, Alex Godomsky is hired. Deb Pierce retires from over 40 years with Mountainside Real Estate. Steven Arner becomes the club's 32nd President "A Town Built By Ski Bums" a history of Carrabassett Valley, is published, Author: Virginia M Wright



Bucksaw Express - 2024 (Photo by Maine Drone Imaging)

*March 27, 1963: It was rainy at the bottom but snow and hail at the top and pretty miserable skiing. Consequently around 3:00 p.m. I headed for Megantic with George Cary, John Noyes, Burt Babcock and Davis Rawson. I got the chance to practice my high school French in bailing out one of the crowd at the newly constructed police station and jail. (\$20 Canadian). We got back to the Valley in time to check in at the Capricorn and the Sugarloaf Inn.*

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## Meet Our Board of Directors

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**Joe Tutlis**, President from 2022-2024 has been on the board since 2005. He has also been Membership Chair, Community Scholarship Chair, and Cardiac Club Coordinator. Joe's career as an educator included being a teacher, a principal, and a field supervisor at UMF monitoring teachers of tomorrow. Joe lives with his wife, Doris in Carrabassett Valley. They look forward to visits from their sons, Chris and Matt and their families. His favorite trail is Wedge because for the most part it has not lost the narrow, twisting style that so many Sugarloaf trails once had. Joe can often be found volunteering at the start of races on Narrow Gauge.



**Bruce Miles**, Executive Director/ Secretary on the board in numerous positions since the early '80s, Sugarloaf since 1961. Bruce was President of the Ski Club, Executive Director of the Ski Museum of Maine, SRSEF treasurer and C.V. Planning Board Chairman. He is currently on the CVA Board. He and his wife Kathy have been residents of Carrabassett Valley since 1970, when it was still Jerusalem Township. His favorite trail is Narrow Gauge because he has spent lots of time on it. Favorite Apres spot, Ski Club office.



**Steve Arner**, Vice President, Sugarloaf since 2003, has been on the Ski Club's board of directors since 2019, serving as Chair of the Governance Committee, and the club's Vice-President since 2022. He is the owner of Western Maine Law LLC, a law firm on the mountain, and has been recognized as a Katahdin Counsel in that role for providing pro bono legal services by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court the past six years. He has been the chair of the Carrabassett Valley School Committee since 2018, and a member of the committee since 2016. Steve has also served as chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals since 1999, a board member for the Bell Interfaith Chapel board since 2019, middle school soccer coach at Stratton School for eight years, and as a Wilderness First Responder since 2020. Steve was previously the co-chair of the Carrabassett Valley Parent Support Organization (PSO) for seven years. Steve also moonlights as a bartender and waiter at 45North, and has worked in various roles for Sugarloaf for eleven years.



**Phil Hunter**, Treasurer, on the board since 1981, Sugarloaf since 1965. He is a retired physician. Phil and his wife Mary have a cozy camp in Wyman Township, and live in Bangor. They enjoy skiing at Sugarloaf with their 7 grandchildren. A regular Comp Center volunteer, Phil is often the Finish Referee on Narrow Gauge races, or statistician on freestyle events. His favorite trails are "Upper Double Bitter & Wedge – they are like early Sugarloaf trails – great narrow, turny, fall line skiing.





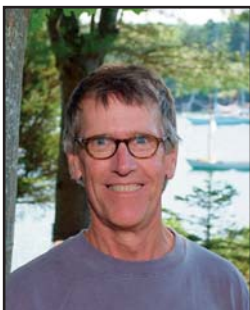
**Christine Kendall** is all about building both in her career and in her personal life. An avid skier and proud member of the Sugarloaf Ski Club since 2022, Christine finds joy in the outdoors and the mountain lifestyle. She's been running H.E. Callahan Construction Co. since 2015, a company that's become one of the largest female-owned businesses in Maine. You'll find her thumbprint on projects such as the Mountain Fire Station and the Carrabassett Valley Library. Christine is a mom of three, a Sugarloafer since 1984, proving that whether on the slopes or in life, she's always up for a challenge.



**Erik Kankainen** joined the SSC board in 2023. Erik was born and raised in Kingfield, Maine. He grew up ski racing as part of the Sugarloaf weekend program, local middle and high school teams and CVA before competing in Division 1 NCAA for Dartmouth College. Erik and his wife Jackie enjoy exploring the mountain with their two young children who are also in the Sugarloaf and CVA weekend programs. Erik's favorite trail is Gondil line, followed closely by Narrow Gauge.



**Brian Demshar** was born and raised in Carrabassett Valley and participated in alpine ski racing at Sugarloaf into high school. Brian's family has been full time residents of CV since 2016 and are thrilled with the opportunity to raise their daughters, Anna & Abby, in this wonderful community. The girls have been on skis since they were 2 years old and look forward to skiing each season. Brian's wife Erin teaches at Mt. Abram High School, and Brian is self employed. The Demshar family takes great pride in volunteering in the community.



**Tom Hildreth**, on and off the board since 1980, and Sugarloafer since 1962. Tom's entire employment history has been in the Valley, including owning Carrabassett Coffee and Java Joe's. "I intentionally sold the company to Bob Luce and the late Rob Miller knowing that they would continue to provide significant financial support of the Club events." Tom lives in Kingfield and his blended family includes Claudia Diller, and their kids Heather, Brecken, and Steve, all serious ski racers in their youth. His favorite trails are now those with a little less angle and bumps. His apres-ski is spent sailing on Penobscot Bay. "I am on the board of a number of area non-profits and my involvement with the Ski Club is by far the most meaningful – and the most fun, too."

**Alex Godomsky**, CVA Head of School and representative on the Ski Club Board since the winter of 2024. Alex is a seasoned academic administrator with more than 30 years of experience in the private school sector and



has long been involved in Maine alpine racing and coaching. A Farmington native and CVA alumnus, he graduated from Bates College with a B.S. in Physics in 1995. Alex joined the CVA staff in 2021 following a 24-year tenure at Hebron Academy where he assumed numerous key roles including Assistant Head of School, Director of Student Life, IT Director, Math and Science Faculty, and Athletic Trainer. In his role as CVA Director of Finance and Development, Alex collaborated with colleagues and board members and has managed strategic plans and financial objectives while supporting his colleagues, students, and the CVA mission. His breadth of experience has afforded Alex a full understanding of the operations of independent schools and student programs

**Bob Allen**, board member since 2021 and Sugarloafer since 1971, retired as a financial advisor in 2019. He and his wife, Linda, Sugarloafer since 1970, worked and raised their daughters, Stacy



and Kelly in the Bangor area and most Fridays during the winter drove to Sugarloaf to spend the weekend skiing. Bob and Linda have been active members of the Cardiac Club for many years. Since their retirement, winters have been spent at Sugarloaf where Bob works as a Sugarloaf Ambassador and enjoys spending time skiing with their three grandchildren, Brady, Zoe, and Ella, 3rd generation Sugarloafers. When not living at the mountain, they reside in Deer Isle, Maine, where they enjoy golfing, boating, volunteering as Master Gardeners and serving on various boards and committees. Bob has a lot of favorite trails, depending on snow conditions, but his least favorite is Sluice in most any condition!



**Jim McCormack**, a Sugarloaf Ski Club Board member since 1999, began working at Sugarloaf in 1988 working in the winter on races and teaching skiing. He moved to Carrabassett Valley as a full-time resident in 1993 with his wife, Jen.

In 1999 he became the Director of Competitions at the Sugarloaf Competition Center. Jen, a Registered Nurse, is the Executive Director of Rangeley Health and Wellness. Jim's daughters, Meghan and Rylee, participated in Sugarloaf and CVA ski programs, were FIS level Alpine Racers and both live and work now on Martha's Vineyard.



**Russ Drechsel**, finance committee, on the board since 2020, Sugarloafer since 1972, retired, and past Ironman. Russ and his wife Jeanne call Carrabassett Valley home. Summers

are spent on Moosehead Lake, enjoying visits from their friends and two children Lex (WY) and Reed (VT). Russ is an active member of the CVA board and the comp center's slip crew. His favorite trail is Gondi, first run in the mornings, and his favorite spot on the mountain is the "Slippers' Lounge".





**Teddy Smith**, on the board since April 2024, and a Sugarloafer since 2003. He is a Client Advisor at R.M. Davis and recently returned to Maine after a decade in Boston, now calling Portland home. His favorite trails are Widowmaker and Narrow Gauge, and he believes there's no better après than a 4 p.m. beer at The Rack.



**Joyce Tobias**, board member since 2005, and also in the 1980s; Sugarloafer since 1975. She is a retired educator and shares her homes in Carrabassett Valley and Falmouth, MA, with her husband John. They have two sons and four grandkids who all learned to ski at the Loaf. Joyce also works with Great Britain tour groups at the Loaf and around the country. She likes Narrow Gauge for the difference in the terrain.



**Patrick Willihan** has served on the Sugarloaf Ski Club board of directors since 2018. In addition, Patrick has accumulated many years as a ski racing volunteer since 1998. Patrick's career as a special education teacher and Director of special education span 35 years. Along with his wife, Peggy, he resides in Carrabassett Valley. Together, they look forward to visits from their grandson, Thatcher, along with his parents Hannah and Andrew Willihan. Sugarloafer since 1981.



**Kim Kearing**, BOD since 2012. Moved to Carrabassett Valley, from Wyoming, with her husband Dave in 2001. Their three children grew up skiing at Sugarloaf and raced for Division 1 schools. Henry (St. Lawrence University), Emma (University of New Hampshire) and Luke (Harvard). Kim has worked as a realtor for CSM Real Estate since 2014, prior to that she enjoyed coaching her children's sports teams. She also served on the Carrabassett Valley School Board, the Carrabassett Valley Public Library Board and was a Trustee for Carrabassett Valley Academy. She loves to hike, bike, ski and travel with her family.



**Peter W Smith**, Sugarloafer since 1965. Head coach of Sugarloaf Alpine Program in the 70's. Received Gleason Rand Award 2 or 3 times as an outstanding volunteer for the Club. Former Masters competitor and Locals racer. Inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame. Competition Center volunteer. Lives at the Mountain with his wife Delinda. Skis daily if there is snow.



**Nancy Holliday**, board member since 1996. She has served as Historical Chair, Social Committee Chair, and Secretary. In the past, she has also been a race volunteer.

Nancy and family are originally from Scarsdale New

York and started skiing at Sugarloaf in 1959. In 1969 they moved to Newport Maine where her Dad practiced Dentistry. Nancy lived in Winterport Maine for 35 years, and moved full time to Carrabassett Valley in 2014.

She has had varying careers including Teacher, Travel Agent, Real Estate Broker and Customer Relations Manager. Presently she is employed part-time at Happy Tunes and has been there for nearly 15 years. Her favorite trail is Sluice, because her father liked it, but "everything is good when there's snow on it."



**Tracy Goller**, board member since 2022 and secretary for Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Organization, has been a Sugarloaf since 1969. She grew up skiing from

the family camp in Wyman before she, husband Mike Beland and son Jason (SCVA alum) built their current home in Redington in 2008. Tracy volunteers on the race slip crew spending many weekends reliving her race days on Narrow Gauge. Her favorite après ski is snowshoeing with their dog Cinderhoe around Redington. She loves all the trails on the mountain and enjoys the memories of T-Bar 5 when skiing Misery Whip. When the ski season is over you will find her with Mike and Cinder sailing Penobscot Bay on Sun Dog.



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# The Gleason Rand Award Volunteerism at Its Finest Blood, Sweat and Tears

*By Bruce Miles*

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Throughout the years, countless numbers of people have given of themselves to assist the Ski Club and its Junior programs, be they racing or freestyle. It began with a young Austrian named Werner Rothbacher who, in the early days, charged only a small pittance for a full season of coaching and training. It continues with all of the energetic people of today (and past years) that are involved in race or Freestyle organization. The spirit of volunteerism has been a Sugarloaf tradition that continues to live on. During the early '70s a person by the name of Gleason Rand could be found every Saturday morning donating his time to help register many a promising freestyler or racer into his/her training session. After completing those early morning registrations the doctor from Orono would then head out to the hill to help carry equipment for the coaches and give everyone the kind of unique support that made this man so special.

Gleason Rand was an outstanding supporter of and contributor to the club and its early programs. Both he and his wife, Mary, were actively involved in the Ski Club, while their two sons, Gary and Stephen, competed. During May, 1973, the Ski Club was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Gleason Rand. While returning from a fishing trip with friends, Dr. David Hodgkins of Rockland and Dr. Ogdon Small of Caribou, a tragic accident occurred that took Gleason's life. In his memory, the Ski Club established the Gleason Rand award. This award is presented annually to the person or persons who have demonstrated outstanding support toward the Ski Club and its Freestyle and Alpine competition programs.

## Recipients

1974 Jean Luce	1991 Carol Fre-	Smith
1975 Peter Spalding	mont-Smith	2011 Laurie Steeves
1976 Robert Waddle	1992 Ron & Audrey	2012 Charles & Diane
1977 Larry & Jackie	Leonard	Copeland
Mahaney	1993 Jay & Gail Rowe	2013 Mark Swisher
1978 Paula & Irving	1994 Barbara & Dick	2014 David Stonebrak-
Kagan	Hinman	er & Mitzi Guenther
1979 Peter Smith	1995 Audrey Leonard	2015 Gerry Thompson
1980 Tom Needham	1998 Mary Hunter &	2016 Donn & Linda
1981 Frank Jean	Lev Steeves	Gifford
Woodard	1999 Bob Daley	2017 Craig Brigham
1982 Jim Merritt	2000 Chris Schipper	2018 John Stinchfield
1983 Kathy Allen	2001 Lev Steeves	& Linda Cloutier
1984 Tina Hinckley	2002 Mary & Phil	2019 Richard & Judi
1985 Mary Hunter	Hunter	Hawkes
& Jean Luce & Gil	2003 Patti & Bob Silvia	2020 Gerry Thompson
O'Connor	2004 Al & Alice Cole	2021 Leslie Guenther
1986 Carolyn & Regis	2005 Susan Manter	2022 Patrick Willihan
Lepage	2006 Marco Stivaetta	2023 Jay Marshall
1987 Bruce Miles	& Peter Smith	2024 Don & Barbara
1988 Kathi Acord	2007 Terry Petley	Hathorn
1989 Peter & Carol	2008 Tom Hanson	
Bass	2009 Jon Hellstedt	
1990 Deb Oberg	2010 Peter & Delinda	



*Dr. Gleason Rand*

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# The Virginia “Ginny” Bousum Award

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The CVA Big Dog Scholarship Award was established in 2015. In 2022 the award was renamed to honor Club president Ginny Bousum who passed away that Spring.

While attending the University of Maine in the late ‘50s and early ‘60s Ginny discovered Sugarloaf and worked weekends at Judson’s restaurant in Carrabassett Valley where she met her future husband Bill who was a navy pilot stationed in Brunswick.

Ginny became involved in the Sugarloaf Ski School at this time and continued to teach until the age of 80 with over 40 years as a certified professional instructor. She became very involved and held leadership positions in the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Education Foundation, CVA and the Sugarloaf Ski Club. She was very involved with the Sugarloaf Ski Club and its scholarship programs, serving on the Club board for many years. She was very proud of her work helping to establish Carrabassett Valley Academy and for the local skiers and snowboarders the club scholarship funds were able to help. When the Club reorganized in July of 2018, Ginny stepped up to be our President. She held this position through 2022 working tirelessly even after being diagnosed with Cancer.

During her tenure as President she saw the Club achieve its goal of creating a one million dollar endowment fund to help local kids have affordable access to the slopes. She helped create The Boomauger program which is providing ski and snowboard instruction to many local kids. Because of her passion for skiing, it seemed only fitting to name this CVA scholarship award in her honor. The award is given to someone who has been a ski club member and is becoming a first time 9 month student at CVA. The amount of the award this year will be \$3,000. We hope to continually increase the size of the award over the years. Athletes can apply through CVA admissions.

## Award Recipients

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2015 Dow Jones  
2016 Patrick Orouke  
2017 Cam Carey  
2018 Caspian Fargo  
2019 Jackson Knobloch

2020 Summer & Dahlia Saifee  
2021 Caleb Stefanakos  
2022 Will Swain  
2023 Connor Abeles  
2024 Rocco Lazzaro



Bruce presents 2022 award to Will Swain



1991 - Ginny presents the Bill Bousum trophy (named after her late husband) to the winners of the Bill Bousum race. Two future U S Alpine Ski Team members Kirsten Clark and Forest Carey. This award was established in 1986 for the winners of the U14 Alpine race. Winners Anna Parisien 1986, and Sam Morse, 2008, 9 and 10 have also gone on to become U S Ski Team members

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# Sugarloafers

By Carol Tanner

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Sugarloaf is where my heart is. Being born in 1931 in Nassau, Bahamas, and traveling the world, I found Sugarloaf. Sugarloaf opened a new door and through that door, many have passed.

And so, my story begins in 1966. I remember that first trip after leaving my dad and four boys with Jane, our babysitter, to celebrate the New Year with a few Sugarloafers.

We drove on a narrow winding road adjacent to the Carrabassett River to arrive at noon to ski until the lifts closed and the sun set on Bigelow. Armed with a flashlight, we read the map and followed the handwritten directions. Warm lights glowed in cozy A-frames behind huge snowbanks on Route 27. We found our camp and to our surprise, we were surrounded by loud music and dozens of parked cars and trucks. We were directly across from the Stallion (a bar some of you might remember) in Maine's wilderness.

We could see our breath as the temperature hovered around zero. We fired up the wood stove, unrolled our sleeping bags onto the wooden floor, cooked our dinner, and settled in for the night. With no beds, electricity, or running water, we felt gratefully content from the marvelous day of skiing. The music finally subsided, replaced with deep breathing, snores, and ski dreams. We were SKI BUMS!



Stan Leen

The next weekend we brought the boys, and so began our typical winter weekend ritual—the night before we loaded the car with our skis, duffels, and food coolers. Before daybreak, we packed the sleepy boys into the Ford LTD Station Wagon in the dark cold Saturday mornings.

Two and a half hours later we were putting on our boots in the parking lot.

Years later, after a semester in the seventh-grade shop class, Craig said, "Mom, I can build a garage, we don't need water or electricity." That year my dad passed away and left me nine thousand dollars. Sugarloaf put their first condos on Bear Mountain on the market for twenty thou-

sand dollars. They sold immediately. I had almost half the total cost and Sue Mason, the Sugarloaf realtor, placed us on the list for the next year.

Having countless memories, one of my favorites is Easter. Maine spring skiing is the best, and it has been a family tradition to spend Easter at Sugarloaf for the past sixty-some years. The boys would dress and be ready before dawn



Jane McKay & King John Tanner

to be the first in line to catch the gondola to the summit for sunrise service. We would step out our door into a pitch-black starry, starry night.

Although we tried to be the first, there was usually someone in the line ahead of us. We boarded the gondola with sleepy eyes and like the domino effect, that one wide-open-mouthed yawn, immediately set off a chain reaction for the rest of us to yawn.

Too tired to talk, the ride to the top was eerily quiet as we witnessed the soft light of daybreak with the many hues of crimson, gold, and blue. We passed snow and ice-covered trees appearing like spooky sculptures, and alabaster-white saint statues. At the end of our journey, the gondola groaned and moaned, the door squealing and squeaking, as we stepped out into the cold wind. We felt like we were in outer space and close to heaven. It was a privilege for our family to share that moment.

Climbing the steps inside the summit building, we entered a warm room with a large topographical map of the surrounding mountains and a massive fireplace with three-foot burning logs. The congregation had started assembling in front of the roaring cracking fire singing along with the violin, harmonica, and guitars. After the service, coffee, juice, and piles of doughnuts were waiting.



Jackie Mahaney



With the ham in the oven, and scalloped potatoes prepared, we would get in at least a half dozen runs before the Easter Egg hunt and the Easter Parade skiing down to the base lodge. After dinner, in the later afternoon, all the mountain it seemed to me, attended Stan Leen's big party on the bunny slope where Stan played host. The first one is where the Gondola Village now stands. Imagine a six-foot-plus Easter Bunny serving from two buckets of Grand Lake Stream punch.

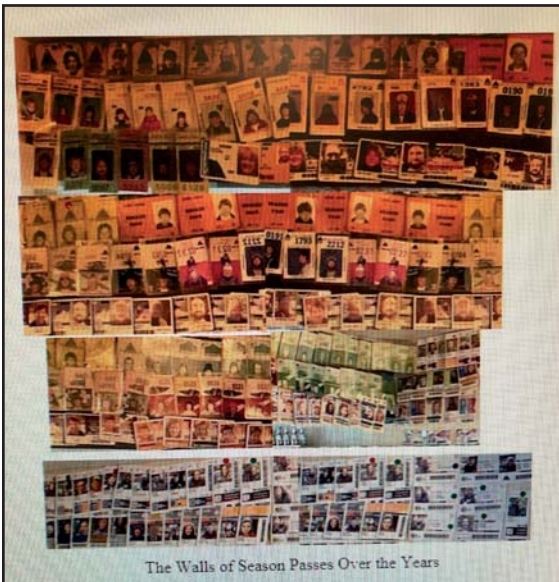
One bucket had rum which was marked with a branch the other bucket was nonalcoholic. Stan's Bangor buddy, Jackie Mahaney the beautiful blond, pink bunny stood at Stan's side helping him to welcome the Sugarloafers.



Those first few years, I never *Julia Steeves & Tegan Tanner*

went to Stan's Easter Party because I usually skied to the end of the day with my little boys, Timmy, and Tommy. Besides, I didn't know Stan, and I wasn't invited. My friends, Jean, Joan, and Marti, said, "Invited? No one's invited! You just come!" So, the next year, I did, and it was a Sugarloaf experience of friends, love, and naturally the famous Grand Lake Stream

Punch. Closing for the season, the Truffle Hound, the Bag, and Gladstones would clean out their freezers and refrigerators and offer Sunday Night Specials.



*The walls of season passes over the years.*

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# Sugarloaf Locals Race Series

By Bruce Miles

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*Bag Team Captain Jay Reynolds hands trophy to  
The Rack's Captain Chris Prudente*

## Another Roadside Attraction Locals Race Team - circa late '70s



*Back Row L-R Russ Morey, Chip Carey, Tom Hildreth, Adam  
Hoover  
Front Row L-R John Diller, Loren Perkins, Steve Pierce*

The Sugarloaf Locals Race Series has been a mainstay of the locals scene since the 70's. Over the years it has been sponsored by various beer companies. Local businesses sponsor teams to compete against one another during a season long series. Teams can "protect" some members , but most come from the "Draft Night" Team captains try to figure out who would be most valuable on their teams. It is not always based on talent as just showing up consistently is very important. No matter the results each week, a good time is had by all reliving the day's deeds at the locals party held at various establishments around the mountain.

In 2024 after a run of 9 years in the top spot, The Bag Dynasty came to an end. The Rack has earned the title of Sugarloaf Locals Race Champions. A new team this year Mas Amigos came in a close second. The Bag: Third, Shipyard: Fourth, Sugarloaf Ski Club: Fifth, Tufulios : Sixth, D'Ellies: Seventh.

No matter what place the teams came in, they all scored big in the camaraderie category.



*2024 The Rack Locals Team*

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# Sugarloaf Mascot History

## Meet Sugarloaf's Characters

By Steve Arner & Marcia White

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It is a treat to see Sugarloaf's characters out and about, or on and around the mountain during your time at Sugarloaf, no matter what age you are!. Amos the Moose, Blueberry the Bigelow Bear, Pierre DuBois the Lumberjack, and Lemon the Yellow-Nosed Vole are well-loved locals often seen out skiing, at events at the base lodge and Outdoor Center, as well as hanging out in Moose Alley. Be sure to sign the guest book when you visit the cabin!

You can read about Amos, Pierre, and Lemon in *Amos the Moose: A Sugarloaf Story*, written and illustrated by Claudia Diller, based on a story told by Marcia White. The book was first published in 2013 and has since had a second print run. No Sugarloafer's home should be without a copy! You can find the book for sale at the Amos & Friends store and the Sugarloafer Shop.

The story of Amos, Pierre and Lemon, dates to the beginnings of Sugarloaf as a ski area. In the years before the first ski trails were cut at Sugarloaf, a group of local Kingfield skiers later nicknamed the "Bigelow Boys," would hike up and ski down Bigelow with Amos Winter. It was while skiing Bigelow that Amos Winter and Pierre came upon a moose pinned under a tree. That moose was not the moose we know and love, but rather Amos the Moose's father! Amos Winter and Pierre moved the tree off the moose, who moved off into the forest with his moose family after giving them a thankful nod.

A few years later, in 1950, Flagstaff Lake was flooded by the power company, blocking the road to skiing on Bigelow. That same year, the Sugarloaf Ski Club was formed and Amos Winter and other volunteers started cutting Sugarloaf's first trail, later named Winter's Way after Amos Winter. Around that same time, the calf of the moose Amos Winter and Pierre had helped a few years earlier, was lost on Sugarloaf, his route home blocked by the flooding. Fortunately, his

path crossed that of Pierre, and the orphaned calf followed him. After tripping and being injured, Pierre guided the moose calf back to his hut near Sugarloaf to recover. When Pierre recognized the moose as the calf of the bull he and Amos had freed from the fallen tree, he decided to call him Amos, too! Pierre, Lemon the Yellow-Nosed Vole (who lived with Pierre) and Amos the Moose became friends over lemon drops of all things, and settled in at Moose Alley.

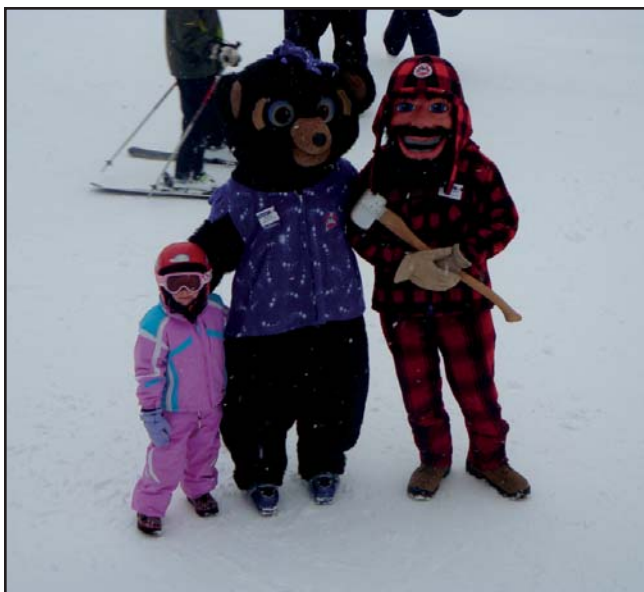
After Amos recovered, Pierre and the Bigelow Boys made Amos some skis and taught him how to use them, and Amos became a "Sugarloafer Since 1951." Lemon rides on Amos' antlers for all their adventures on the mountain.





Amos, Lemon, and Pierre still ski together, often with their friend Blueberry, who lives in a cave somewhere nearby, the location of which remains a mystery. The bear cave in Moose Alley, is inhabited by Blueberry's Aunt Bertha, but even she won't tell where Blueberry's cave is! Amos and Pierre found Blueberry sleeping in a blueberry patch on Bigelow one summer. They convinced her to try skiing, she loved it and stayed, becoming a Sugarloafier in 1987. But that is another story...rumor has it, a second book, chronicling Blueberry's arrival at Sugarloaf, is in development.

Did you know that Amos, like all moose, cannot talk? Or that his antlers are so big that he can't put down the safety bar on chairlifts, so, as much as he'd like to, he can't ride with kids in ski school or other guests? (He also doesn't have hands to help keep a child on the lift.) He appreciates it when ski instructors and lift attendants know that and explain to kids why Amos can't ride with them. Amos, like other moose, also has very poor vision, with blind spots due to the position of his eyes. He is also colorblind! As a result, Amos really prefers skiing when the sun is shining so he can see the snow a bit better.



You can find the character group out skiing most weekends and some weekdays (weather permitting) but Amos is not an early riser! They usually are on hill around 10:15AM and ski for an hour or two. You will generally find them on easier terrain like Natalie's Birches and Boardwalk, but every so often on sunny days, you might spot them venturing up to Bullwinkle's or riding the SuperQuad, Skyline, Bucksaw Express or Timberline.

When you see the crew out and about, they all love a fist bump, high five, or gentle hug. They love to dance with friends on the beach when music is playing, and they are always happy to be in photos. Around the Base Lodge or at events, Blueberry may have her bear cub Muffin with her, he like gentle pats, too! Unlike most moose and bears, Amos and Blueberry do not mind dogs, but keep in thought that some dogs do mind moose and bear! Always be kind and gentle with all animals, real and personified!

*Sunday, December 12, 1965: George Cary, Sr., George Cary, Jr. and I got up at 4:00. We went back up in a Tucker Sno-Cat to the Gondola Mid-station to refuel the salamander heaters curing the concrete. Again, we had problems with balky engines. We came down around 6:00 a.m. for a beautiful sunrise. Later George Cary and I hitched a ride to the MidOStation by Snowcat and then hiked the lift line to the top. We skied down Quint's Road [later Binder] and then an unpacked crusty Tote Road. In the afternoon we hiked to the top of #2 T-bar and found some powder. No plans to open the Mountain soon. All efforts are focused on finishing the Gondola.*

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# My Memories of Stub Taylor

## And the Sugarloaf Ski Patrol

*By Colon Durrell, Sugarloaf Ski Patrol 1966*

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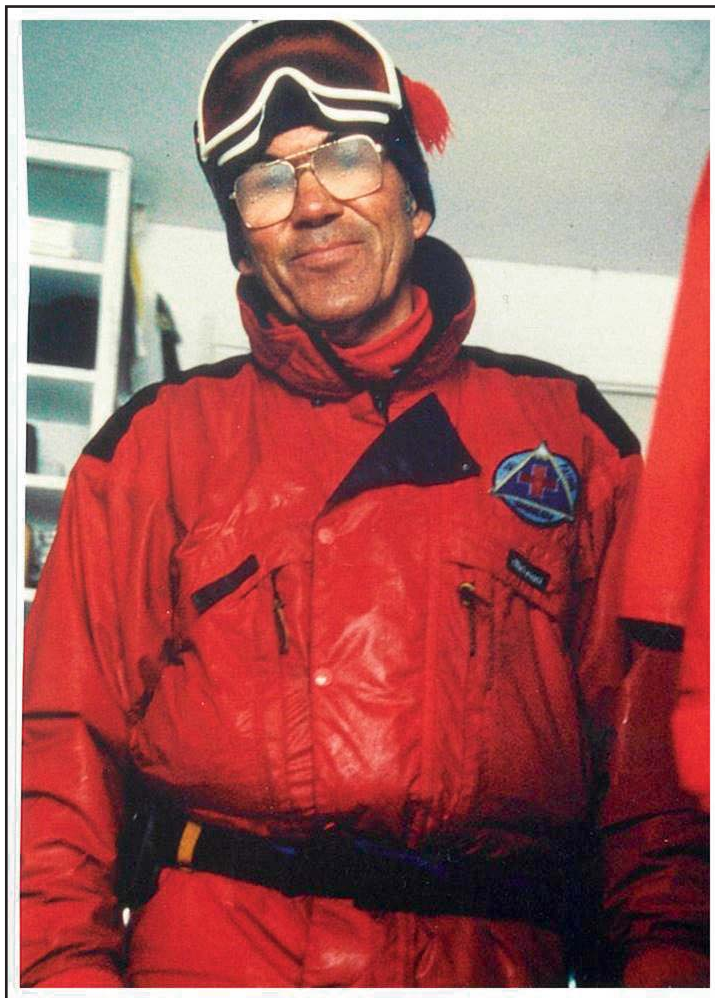
Stub's credentials were extraordinary. He had a National Ski Patrol appointment. He was certified by both National Ski Patrol System (NSPS) and Professional Ski Patrol Association (PSPA). He was inducted into the Maine Ski Hall of Fame. Was he the patrol director, or the patrol leader? I think a leader better describes him. He always set a good example and was so loved and likeable his patrollers wanted to excel and please him. He always led with a quiet manner. There was little need to direct.

During the fall of 1965 I wrote to Robert E. Taylor asking if I might join his patrol. He seemed impressed that I'd been on the Winter Park patrol, but perhaps more so that I'd grown up in Freeman Township, across the line from his hometown of Kingfield.

I arrived in January 1966, to this mountain with a brand new gondola. I first met Stub at the top of the #3 T-bar, complete with his peanut butter sandwiches, and Mason jar of coffee. He was very cordial and helpful. He suggested I try the Narrow Gauge with its new wind drifted snow. Having just returned from several days of Winter Park snow, I was justly humbled. I've always hoped he didn't see the crash.

To be a patroller, at that time, one needed an American Red Cross (ARC) first aid card and some skiing ability. The ability to shovel humps on the T-bar lines was a much more needed skill. Stub was an ARC first aid instructor and I think one's willingness to shovel helped achieve that card. Ability to splice the old bare telephone wire was also helpful.

There were wooden toboggans until the orange cascades came along in the 70/71 season. Stub was always frugal trying to save money for the mountain. He bought material by the yard for triangular bandages, (called cravats) and cotton padding from Sharlain's in Auburn. Wood basswood splints were sawn out by CA Thompson Co, a tennis racket manufacturer in New Sharon.



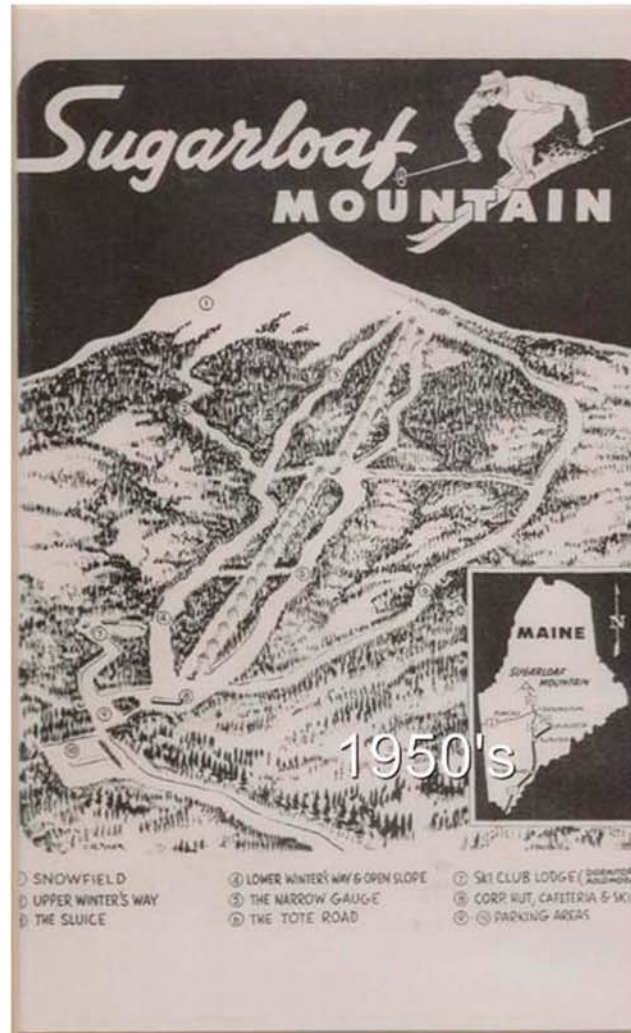
*Stub Taylor*

*Saturday, April 30, 1966: Beautiful day at Sugarloaf, so much so that I squandered \$7.50 for a Gondola ticket (a T-bar ticket is \$4.50). I skied most of the day with Charlie Cary on great fast spring corn. A gondola fell off the cable at Mid-Station stopping the lift for over an hour. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt. The accident was the result of human error, and the Gondola was running again by the end of the afternoon.*



## Congratulations to the Sugarloaf Ski Club as One of the Significant World Events in 1950:

1. Korean War begins when North Korea invaded South Korea in June
2. United States - Great Brinks Robbery
3. Diner's Club issues the first credit cards ( made with cardboard )
4. President Truman signs the Organic Act of Guam
5. The Tollund Man, a mummified body from the 4th Century, is found
6. President Harry Truman sends United States military personnel to Vietnam to aid French forces
7. Two Long Island commuter trains collide in the Richmond Hills section of Queens killing 79 people
8. Albert Einstein warns that nuclear war could lead to mutual destruction
9. James Dean gets his break when he appears in a Pepsi Commercial
10. Sugarloaf Ski Club is founded in Carrabassett Valley, Maine



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Sometime in the late '60's, maybe the 67/68 season, there was a trip to Winter Park, Colorado, with other eastern patrol leaders. This may have been an early part of organization of the Professional Ski Patrol Association. Stub returned with great enthusiasm. In 1969 there was a PSPA exam at Sugarloaf on a brutally cold day with several Sugarloaf patrollers successfully passing the skiing and toboggan handling portion.

This was a beginning of more PSPA training, testing, and certification involving Eastern ski areas. Stub served on that Board of Directors. For the Maine Region, more directed toward volunteers was NSPS training, and testing at basic and Senior levels as well as certification. Stub and several other Sugarloafers

lead the way for improvement throughout the whole state. Some travel was involved to other eastern areas. Returning through Gorham NH would usually involve a stop for Chinese food, a favorite for Stub. Annual NSPS meetings were great social functions that he thoroughly enjoyed.

Around 1970 Stub hired Ron Morin, an EMT aspiring to be a paramedic, to work and run the ambulance. This was a 1970 International Travellall, 4-speed, 4-wheel drive, Army green vehicle. Maintenance Operations Manager Hazen McMullin purchased it from Basil Rowe's garage over in Phillips. The electric tailgate window was problematic in cold weather. Sometimes one had to pour hot water over it so the tailgate

*Sunday, January 1, 1967: After the lifts closed George Cary, Charlie Cary and a friend of George hiked from the top of #3 T-bar to the still not completed Summit Lodge. We sat in the circular fireplace and watched football games on a portable tv set. We skied down the Mountain around 8:00 p.m. on a very dark evening.*



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*1971 Sugarloaf Ski Patrol*

*Front row: Paul Shaw, Peter “Pukie” Tucker, John Goode, Peter Sala, Peter Shaw, Robert “Stub” Taylor, Gilbert “Specs” Eaton, Ralph Kline, Graham Barlow from Australia, Bill Page*

*Back row: Ted Bosworth, Peter Allen, Steve Guertin, Phil Howe, John Nickerson, Ron Gagnon, Chick Coleman, Pat Dow, Paul Haskell, Fred Davis, Colon Durrell, Danny Covert a jr patroller*

could open and get someone out. That vehicle didn't remain long and Ron went on to establish Sugarloaf ambulance.

Stub and a couple of full-timers also became EMT certified. Several others also followed as EMTs. NSPS began Winter Emergency Care. That, along with CPR, greatly improved on mountain first aid. Early on, Dr. Harry Brinkman was the county medical examiner,

followed later by his son, Paul. Their rule was, ‘no one ever dies on the Mountain. Get them on a toboggan and down to the base for me.’

1971 was the World Cup year. Stub had lots of planning to do, involving the first use of radios, and snowmobiles. At some early point a nurse was hired to run the first aid room. Later a dispatcher was hired.

In the early 70's, there was a National White

Water Canoe Race on Dead River. Stub was asked to provide members of the SSP for safety. Throw lines were needed and Stub came with plastic jugs with rocks for weight and throwing while still having ability to float.

Stub once thought that females lacked adequate strength to handle loaded toboggans. I think there may have been some court action to cause him to change his thinking. Louise Snook (Snookah) and Martha Bradley were the first two paid females on patrol. In the later 70's several more women became very good patrollers and he was delighted to have them.

About 1989 a sizeable group of patrollers decided to take Stub on a trip to Alta, staying at the iconic Peruvian Lodge. Skiing at Alta and Snowbird was extraordinary and left Stub with some great memories.

Stub, his wife Eleanor (Pooch), and 5 children lived on School Street in Kingfield. It was remarkable, partly because the bathroom window gave one a view of Sugarloaf's top over Black Nubble. Many of us were honored to be invited for dinner. Often, on weekends I'd give Stub a ride to the mountain as well as the return



# Happy 75th Anniversary to the Sugarloaf Ski Club!

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back. Often I was invited to stay for dinner. Food, especially Pooch's yeast rolls, was always tasty. After a while I'd bring a huge batch of spaghetti sauce to drop off that morning. Those 5 kids really loved spaghetti. My daughter, a couple years younger than Jill, became part of that family, even moving in for some vacation weeks.

The family income was clearly limited, but always they shared what they had. A person in the know once asked management why Stub hadn't had a raise in some time. The answer: He never asked for one.

1977 the NSPS section chief, Dwight Beedy, recommended Stub for a national NSPS award, Outstanding Professional Patrol Director of the Year. Stub won the award but didn't feel he had money to attend the ceremony in Baltimore. Hazen learned of this and authorized me to make arrangements for him. I was honored to attend with him.

Visiting Stub in the summer might find him working in his meticulous garden out on the West Kingfield Road or preparing the winter's wood on School Street.

After Pooch's passing, Stub lived with his companion, Carol, on the Fahi Pond Road in North Anson. For years he and Carol hosted a wonderful Christmas

party with each room decorated with a different theme. There, they had a great vegetable garden, and gorgeous flowers. They had a screened gazebo. I visited Stub about 10 days before his passing. He seemed fairly alert and in good spirits. I was telling him about work I was doing at my Embden camp. Although communication was difficult, I could understand him telling about building the addition on the home on Fahi Pond Road.

Stub was a great friend, a great leader, and I'll always remember him.

*Monday, November 11, 1968: I missed the opening of Sugarloaf yesterday afternoon but I was at Sugarloaf when the Gondola opened this morning. The Gondola was open from Mid-Station with about three feet of fresh snow. The skiing was terrific. I skied with Lucky Greenleaf, Dick Keenan, Rod and Alden Smith, Gail Chapman and John Fowler.*



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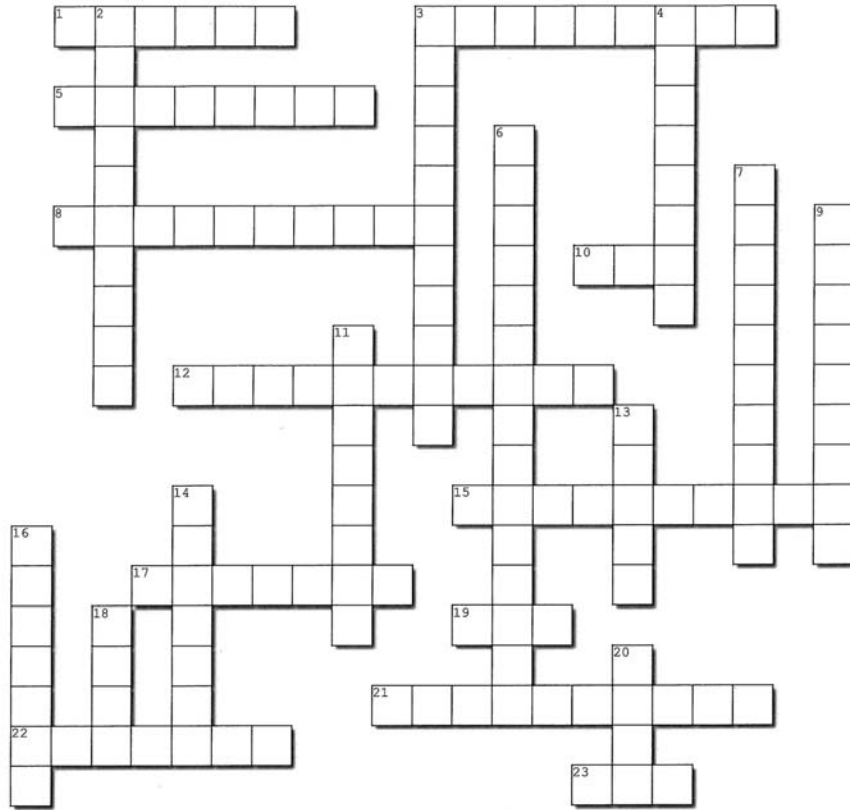
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**Across**

1. Watch and win
3. It's a Stadeli
5. Most popular glade on April 20th
8. OG Trail
10. Formerly known as The Capricorn
12. Glade that keeps Frosty's corn cob fresh
15. Spring vibes
17. It's a triple
19. Where frontside meets backside
21. Fall vibes
22. Serves questionable locals
23. Former resort owner

**Down**

2. You are taller than the trees here
3. Putin skis in jeans here
4. Longest Trail
6. It delayed Spillway's opening
7. Kid friendly black bears home
9. Photographed for Playboy
11. Streaker
13. You don't need sand to get tan here
14. Iconic car
16. A local gold medalist
18. Another local gold medalist
20. This mascot cut the first trail

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# The Iron Man Award

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The Sugarloaf Iron Man Award was created in 1999, honoring the legendary figure Paul Schipper. Paul, owner of the Lumberjack Lodge at the time, skied Sugarloaf every day the mountain was open for twenty-four years straight, an incredible total of 3,903 days! Paul skied in blizzards and through illness and even postponed having cancerous kidney removal to keep his streak going. He also arranged to ski down the mountain just after midnight in front of the lights of a groomer so he could attend his son's graduation without disrupting his streak. Paul wasn't an expert skier, but he was truly inspirational. In 2005, Paul's accomplishment was honored by Sugarloaf when it named a trail "Schipper's Streak."

The Iron Man award is given to the individual(s), male and female, that personify Paul's spirit. Not

only does an Iron Man ski every day the mountain is open, but an Iron Man also represents Sugarloaf as an ambassador, promotes goodwill and character, and helps promote positive attitudes.

Sugarloaf has awarded the Iron Man to twenty-five men and five women, and yes, the ladies are called Iron Man as well. Overwhelmingly many Iron Man recipients are members of the Ski Club. We have both alpine skiers and snowboarders as members. The Iron Man plaque is in the Ski Club's office at The Competition Center.

As an elite club, the Iron Man people gather every December to have our annual party provided by Karl Strand and Sugarloaf. We also organize as a group for fundraisers such as Sugarloaf Charity Summit where last year we raised the second highest amount of donations and skied the most vertical feet.

During the first sixteen years of the Iron Man, little was known about this prestigious award. It wasn't until 2015 when Chris Prudenté changed the dynamics. Chris and his husband Mike Tighe Jr. elevated the visibility and honor of this award. Chris took it upon himself to help design an award pin that is now standard for all Iron Men. He also created the annual Iron Man Party where he is the emcee as well as Records Keeper. With the help of fellow Iron Men, this award is talked about all season and the announcement at the Annual Season Passholder's BBQ is very much anticipated.



Paul Schipper, The Original Iron Man

*Sunday, May 11, 1969: The last day of lift operation, a full six-month season. We skied a couple of runs in the rain on frozen slush and then went down to watch the canoe race between Packard's Bridge and the new Claybrook Bridge. The finale was a bateau crewed by Billy Jones, Jud Strunk and Gardner Defoe. We returned to the Mountain for the last hour or so, closing down the season as the last paying customers on the Mountain.*

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# Iron Man Award Recipients

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1999 Paul Schipper \*  
2000 Tom Spring  
2001 Don Fowler \*  
2002 Rick Chenard \*  
2003 J J Clements \*  
2004 Henry Bacon \*  
2005 Peter Shaw  
2006 Dick McWilliams \*  
2007 Bill Haefele \*  
2008 Cooper Friend \*  
2009 Bob Garrett \*  
2010 Martha Drury \*  
Paul Fritzson \*  
2011 Fran Nelson Stanhope  
2012 Tom Hanson \*  
2013 Ed Hendrickson  
2014 Kyle Evans \*  
2015 Bear Thompson \*  
Mike Tighe \*  
2016 Chris Prudente \*  
2017 Bob Farrar \*  
2018 Russ Drechsel \*  
2019 Marc Ayotte \*  
Bob Zinn \*  
2020 COVID-19  
2021 Richard Hawkes \*  
Greg Wilfert \*  
2022 Patti Curran Raitto\*  
2023 Peter Hockmeyer\*  
Jeff Schipper  
2024 Deke Andrew



*The 2024 Paul Schipper Iron Man award went to Deke Andrew, center. Karl Strand, left and Crusher, right are shown presenting the award. The Iron Man award has been presented each year since 1999 to the person or people who through their dedication to getting out on the hill in rain or shine best exemplifies the spirit of the original Iron Man, Paul Schipper*



*Patti Raitto being congratulaed by fellow Ironman Bear Thompson*

\* Ski club members



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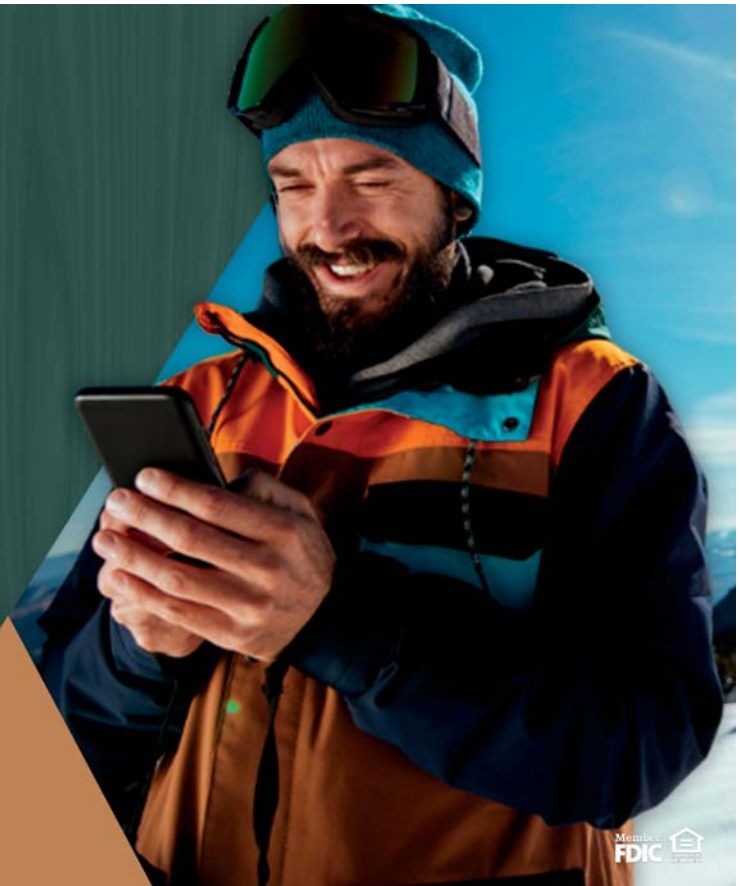
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# Carrabassett Valley Academy

Written by Ginny Bousum in 2010 expanded by Bruce Miles in 2024

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Looking back at Carrabassett Valley Academy's history, you can see from the beginning the connections between Sugarloaf Mountain, the Sugarloaf Ski Club and the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Educational Foundation (SRSEF). The Ski Club started the Sugarloaf Ski Area, and then created the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation. Without the mountain itself, there would be no Ski Club. Without the Ski Club's competition programs,

there would be no SRSEF. It goes 'round and 'round. Please take a moment, if you would, to visualize the symbol of the Olympic Games, the interlocking rings. Do you see what I mean? Round. Interlocking. Connected.

Last February, the whole nation proudly watched as Carrabassett Valley Academy's own Bode Miller and Seth Wescott racked up Olympic medals at the Vancouver Games. This is just what the found-

ers of CVA envisioned almost 30 years ago—to give young ski competitors an opportunity to continue their rigorous training without sacrificing academic studies. To go all the way to the top, if that was the goal.

In 1980, the directors of the Ski Club / SRSEF hired me as director of "The Junior Program." That year the board approved a 20-week-tutorial program which was very well attended. However, that same win-



*King Cummings Campus with Murfey Hall and Webber Academic Center*



ter, the training programs saw several of its top skiers leave Maine to attend a “real” ski academy in Vermont where they would be listed as Vermont, not Maine, kids. I convinced Ski Club president Robert “Pat” Andrews to have the Board of Directors pursue the possibility of expanding the tutorial program into a full-time college-preparatory school. This was not a new idea at Sugarloaf, but I believed the timing was now right. Back in 1968, the Ski Club Directors had the foresight to form an educational foundation (SRSEF) at Sugarloaf. Typically a handful of young ski competitors would bring assignments from their home schools and train at Sugarloaf for an up-coming weekend event. This allowed the athletes to get in some extra days of training during the week while SRSEF tutors helped them keep up with their studies.

Once the board committed to getting the school organized and operating, there was no looking back. Committees were formed without thought to the magnitude of the task ahead. While building the foundation for a new academy, the SRSEF directed all of the Junior Programs—including dozens of young skiers, several full- and part-time coaches, and tutors—all working out of assorted offices and spaces. At the same time, Sugarloaf was growing while renovating and



*Bruce Colon, CVA's first Head of School is pictured here front right signing his contract. Members of the Board are front row Left to Right Ginny Bousum, Jean Luce Back row Arthur Carrier, H King Cummings, Robert Boylestad*

building at the base area. In my first two years I had five different office locations, each serving simultaneously as SRSEF programs office, Ski Club business office, competition headquarters, coaches' locker room, parent conference center and the new Carrabassett Valley Academy office.

After many meetings, the one board was divided into three boards: Ski Club, SRSEF, and now Carrabassett Valley Academy. There were some cross-over members and at first some confusion about “who did what.” An amazing amount of

work continued to be done, most of it by Sugarloaf Ski Club volunteers who continually contributed their expertise, time and money. While the board and staff were taking all the necessary steps to get the school open, many of the same people were also involved with competitions at Sugarloaf, both alpine and freestyle, for local, regional, national and international USSA and FIS events, including the World Junior Alpine Championships.

As the time neared for the academy to open, H. King Cummings, head of Sugarloaf Mountain

*Sunday, November 15, 1970: After three inches of wet snow fell today, Peter Allen and I decided we would be the first to ski the newly cut Birches Trail, between the Base Lodge and the Sugarloaf Inn. We borrowed some ski equipment at the Red Stallion and skied one run at dusk. We then returned to the Red Stallion, which once again provided to be the birth place of dumb ideas.*

Corporation; Peter Webber, owner of the Sugarloaf Inn; Mike Gammon, owner of The Ski Rack; and Robert Pearl of Dexter Shoe Company believed so strongly in the project that they each guaranteed a headmaster's salary for the first four months. Again, the interlocking rings come to mind. Connected. These men stepped up and allowed the vision to become a reality. Bruce Colon enthusiastically became the first headmaster, organizing, hiring and exercising patience for the first season which was once again a winter-term academy. When the Capricorn Lodge came on the market in 1983 board members and parents met the challenge and Carrabassett Valley Academy had a building of its own. It met the state's standards. It was roomy enough for classrooms, a dining room and dorm rooms.

The school year began with eleven pioneer students. The word "pioneer" conjures a picture of people exploring unknown areas "back in olden times." But the families who entrusted their children to a brand-new, unproven ski academy in the mountains of Maine were pioneers, too, as were those students who bravely moved to Carrabassett Valley that September. June of 1984 saw Carrabassett Valley Academy's first graduation as a full time school with two graduating seniors. In June of 2024, the forty first com-

mencement was held at Sugarloaf's Richard Bell Chapel with a class of 17 students.

John Ritzo, Head of School said of the unique relationship between Sugarloaf and CVA:

*"Over the years many people from other ski academies ask me about the unique relationship that CVA has with Sugarloaf and how could they make it work like that at their resort. I tell them that what makes Sugarloaf unique is the culture. The relationship between the resort, the Ski Club and the school and the history of how it all evolved has created an exceptional set of circumstances. Add to this the physical benefits of the mountain itself that stand alone in the East and you have a proven formula for success. Over the years, CVA has enjoyed the benefit of great people who believe in the mission of the school and a great mountain on which to train and compete and as result it has established a 'world class' reputation."*

Since its inception in 1982, CVA has had 4 Heads of School. Bruce Colon helped us launched the school then John Ritzo ushered CVA through a long growth period, Kate Punderson led the school for 13 years

Kate's thoughtful and bold leader-

ship will leave a lasting legacy at CVA. These are just a few of her accomplishments during her tenure as Head of School:

- The Webber Academic Center construction was completed in 2014.
- CVA named U.S. Ski and Snowboard's Club of the Year in 2016.
- The Bill and Joan Alfond Competition Center construction was completed in 2016.
- Navigated the academy through the COVID-19 pandemic, keeping the school open and ensuring that CVA student-athletes remained on track athletically and academically when many other institutions could not.
- Made a decades-long dream reality with the completion of The Podium Project. The installation of a dedicated T-bar on Competition Hill, and snow-making and terrain improvements of the training venue, is a game-changer for CVA, UMF, and Colby athletes

In June of 2024 the leadership of the school was handed over to CVA Alum Alex Godomsky. Like Kate, Alex has the unique perspective of having been a student at CVA and a lifelong Sugarloafer. The school is in good hands as it navigates the years to come.

*Saturday, February 20, 1971: The World Cup racers were frustrated by another burst of snow. The women's giant slalom was slow and hard to see this morning. The Men's giant slalom was postponed after Swiss team's equipment and maintenance trailer burned up in a spectacular fire around 8:30. On the other hand, skiing was great for recreational skiers. The lines weren't long because everybody was standing on the Narrow Gauge trying to see the races.*



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# Sugarloaf & CVA

## 75 Years of Champions

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### CVA Olympians (US & Foreign)

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Sharon Petzold '89 (one bronze medal) – Freestyle  
Kristean Porter Thorpe '89 – Freestyle  
Mark Fawcett '90 – Snowboard  
Brenda Petzold '91 – Freestyle  
Adam Hostetter '93 – Snowboard  
Jeff Greenwood '94 – Snowboard  
Seth Wescott '94 (two gold medals) – Snowboard  
Kirsten Clark '95 – Alpine  
Bode Miller '96 (2 silver medals 2002, gold & silver 2010, bronze 2014) – Alpine  
Emily Cook '97 – Freestyle  
Annalisa Drew '12 – Freeski  
Liam Moffatt '15 – Snowboard (CAN)



*Nate Pare Awarded Snowboard Cross Men's Rookie of the Year*

### Pre CVA Sugarloafers

Karl Anderson Alpine  
Julie Parisien Alpine  
Robbie Parisien Alpine  
Anna Parisien Alpine

### Current US Ski and Snowboard Team Members

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*Sam Morse*



*Nate Pare*



*Boden Gerry*

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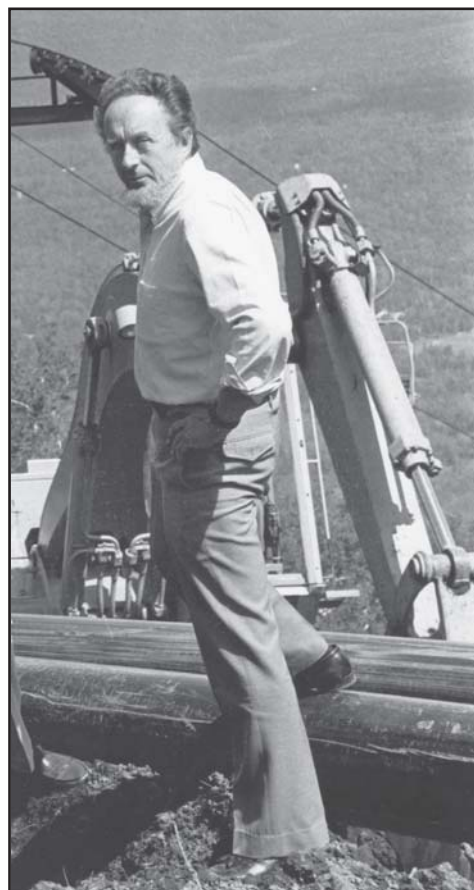
# H. King Cummings Service Award

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The H King Cummings Service Award was established in 1989 and is given to an individual or individuals within the CVA community who have performed valuable service beyond the normal expectations and have made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Carrabassett Valley Academy. In its inaugural year, the award was presented to Martha and Peter Webber. This year the award was presented to their daughter and retiring Head of School, Kate Webber Punderson'89, for her years of dedication to CVA.

## Award Recipients

2024	Kate Webber Punderson	2001	Arthur Currier
2023	Town of Carrabassett		Ginny Bousum
2022	Dave and Shelley Koenig		Gary Brown
2021	Steve Sitz	2000	Jack Deupree
2020	Class of 2020	1999	Tin Hinckley
2019	Nate McKenzie & Karen Lanoue-Egan		Dennis Childers
2018	Bill & Joan Alfond	1998	"Jean DeRosby, Jean Luce"
2017	Paul Fritzson	1997	Martha Warren
2016	Bruce Miles	1996	Mary Lou Zett
2015	Dawn Smith		Sandie Silver
2014	John Hanson	1995	Bernard Carpenter
2013	Kevin Burns	1994	Joan McWilliams
2012	Chip Cochrane		Warren Cook
2011	Earle & Pam Morse	1993	Kathi Acord
2010	Chris Lorenz		Becki Brown
2009	John Hagerstrom	1992	Douglas Juers
2008	Tom Pelletier		Phoebe Stowell
2007	John & Patty Ritzo	1991	Carol and Paul Fremont
2006	John Diller		Smith
2005	Clem Begin		Jean DeRosby
	Scott Hoisington	1990	Win and Vici Robinson
2004	Deb Cantara	1989	"Ned & Nancy Platner,"
2003	George Clark		Martha and Peter Webber
2002	Bonnie Potter		



King Cummings

*Saturday, May 20, 1972: The Gondola was supposed to open this morning but the could never get it operating after a lightning strike burned out the safety switches on Thursday evening. Eventually Bruce Smith gave me, Ted Walls and John Wiltse a ride up on the Gondola to MidOStation. So we got the only run of the day from Mid-Station on what little snow remained on the Mountain.*



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# The Sugarloaf Cardiac Club

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The Cardiac Club (CC), an arm of the Sugarloaf Ski Club (SCC), has been around for decades. Formed in the 1978 by a group of dedicated ski club members, the Cardiac Club has metamorphosed over the decades. Originally a small group focused on racing and improving all-around skiing, today the CC is much larger and the present focus is on skill development, safety on the slopes, and social interaction. Then and now, the CC uses a small cadre of coaches to guide and improve skiing. CC is not an entry level, learn-to-ski program, but rather is meant to enhance intermediate and above skills.

The CC is typically scheduled to meet ten Friday mornings over the course of the ski season. Sessions usually begin at 9:00 and end just before noon. Members are divided up into groups of 4-7 and are as-

signed to a coach for the morning. The emphasis of each session depends on the makeup of the groups, the conditions, and weather. Equally important to the Friday morning session are the social gatherings in the afternoon or evening. CC members have developed strong connections and friendships over the years that transcend skiing and Sugarloaf.

Enrollment in CC is determined by the number of coaches available and the skier's skill level. The total number of members, 40, is the most ever and is comfortable for the available coaches and social activities. Prospective new members may be on a wait list awaiting attrition. CC skiers are all members of the Sugarloaf Ski Club. The nominal CC fee contributes to the SSC scholarship funds for youth.



## Original Cardiac Club Members - 1978

Left to right: Sally Beck, Roger Hewson, Delinda Smith, Kathy Miles, Regis Lepage, Carolyn Lepage, Albert Lepage, Charlie Hewson & Coach Peter W Smith



## 2024 Cardiac Club Members

Row 1: Betsy Bass, Karen Pier, Linda Allen, Lee Goss

Row 2: Rhonda Madden, Nancy Makin, Maggie Newton, Sandi Dunham, Suzanne Hall, Wendy Kellett, Dawn Smith, Doris Tutlis, Teri Green

Row 3: Colon Durrell, Michael Kankainen, Neil Newton, Lee Souweine, Josh Cutler, Joe Tutlis, Ralph Nodine, Peter Van Alstine, Eric Samp, Jon Goss, Peter Smith

Row 4: David Pier, Bob Allen, Steve Schaefer, Jerry Hall, Tom Dunham

Missing: Rand Surgi, Kathy Miles, Pauline Beale, Karen Diekmann, Doris Bonneau, Crystal Gareau, Erica Reitmayer, Liz Cutler, Bonnie Potter, Heather Bosse, Dennis Bosse, Jerry Quinlan, Bud Kellett, Joyce Tobias, Karen Heath, Carolyn Lepage, John Marden, Don Oakes

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# The Dick Bell Chapel

## A Sugarloaf Tradition

By Rev. Pamela Morse

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Believe it or not, the first Sugarloaf Chapel was not on the mountain at all but in the dining room of Judson's Sugarloaf Motel down in the Valley. Ma Judson invited Pastor Charlie Reid, pastor of the Methodist Church in Kingfield (Mission at the Eastward Partnership), to hold the first worship service for Sugarloafers on March 18, 1962. While it was cute and cozy, the services quickly outgrew Judson's and moved up to the base lodge. Pastor Reid, Ma, Dick Bell and others (especially from the Ski Club) quickly realized the need for a permanent Chapel on the hill. Many hands banded together to raise funds and build the Chapel building at a cost of around \$20,000. Their efforts were completed in 1967.

Assorted cast-off pews, moveable chairs and paneling were some of the rough and ready décor of the Chapel in those days-and oh yes, there were cluster flies even back then! Having moveable pews turned out to be a real bonus when the Chapel became the town's first Anti-Gravity Center! For a short period of time the Chapel became home to the Hartford Ballet summer program and the CVA trampo-



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lines.

Originally called the Sugarloaf Interfaith Chapel, the name was changed after the passing of Sugarloafer Dick Bell: "We owe a deep debt of gratitude for the devotion and work done on behalf of the chapel by our deceased treasurer, Richard G. Bell, without whose efforts the chapel would not have been built." (Annual Meeting Minutes, February 23, 1974) Evidently Dick was a master at inspiring others to give generously and enjoy doing it!

The Ski Club utilized the Chapel space almost from the very beginning. Jean Luce recalls that in 1970 the Club made the decision to use the Chapel basement for the race office of the 1971 World Cups and built a partition for a room, from beside the stairway to the east wall for Team Captains' meetings. It was a bit tight, but it was warm and snug.

In early 1970s the Sugarloaf Ski Education Foundation's tutorial program, using Jean Luce's dining room table for studies, decided to move into Gladstone Restau-

rant. (The Foundation was originally formed by the Club's competition committee). Aspiring alpine athletes soon had the kind of training situation most competitors could only dream about. But by late 1970s it outgrew that space and moved into the Chapel basement, further partitioning the Team Captains' room into 4 classrooms. At this time the Club's race headquarters was the Pack Sack area of the Base Lodge basement.

By the time Carrabassett Valley Academy was formed-taking over the tutorial program, purchasing and moving into the Capricorn (1984)-the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation was renovating the Base Lodge. Now the Ski Club needed a new home since it had just a small room in the Base Lodge and Pack Sack area on race days. The Club moved into the newly available Chapel basement, further partitioning a small room near the entrance door for the "quiet" office and using the 4 classrooms for race offices and bib distribution. The Club migrated to the Gondola Building sometime in the mid 1990's, enabling Sugarloaf's

*Saturday, January 5, 1974: The first lift service skiing at Sugarloaf of the season. Borrowed snow making equipment covered the lower chairlift line with a few inches of snow. The first few runs weren't bad but it deteriorated rapidly with the traffic. We finished out the day with cross-country skiing on Poplar Mountain.*

*Sunday, April 18, 1976: A beautiful sunny summer day for the last day of the season. The snow continued to melt. The T-bar closed to a washout in the lift line. The only lift running was Double Runner, where you had to load and unload with your skis off. No charge for the lift today.*

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Ski Patrol to occupy the ever-popular basement.

Meanwhile, upstairs... Winters can be long and harsh on buildings here at Sugarloaf and the Chapel is no exception. Major renovations were undertaken in the late 80's: new carpet, pews and a sound system were added. Even the walls and altar area were refinished, giving the sanctuary an old New England meeting house flair. A side addition in the 1990's (built by Clem Begin) added some much-needed space on the main floor for meetings and a much-needed restroom. Since 2021 the Chapel Board has been actively raising funds for a major renovation of the exterior including new siding, new windows, and a lovely, welcoming, handicap-accessible front deck. This new look, with modern materials, is an attractive addition to the Sugarloaf base area.

Sugarloaf Community Church (now Sugarloaf Christian Ministry), under the direction of the Rev. Skip Schwarz, began worshipping in the sanctuary in 1982. Roman Catholic services during the winter season began around that time as well.

The Chapel, and the land it rests on, is now held in trust by a Board of Directors, several of them family and friends of the late Dick Bell after which the Chapel is named. Their primary purpose is "to establish and maintain a Chapel to provide a place of public worship at Sugarloaf Mountain...."

Today, the Chapel continues to be a blessing to our Sugarloaf Community. Downstairs, many battered and

bruised bodies have found help and healing from the Sugarloaf Ski Patrol. Upstairs, many hurt and tired souls have found solace and peace from the worship services conducted by the Our Ladies of the Lake Roman Catholic Parish and Sugarloaf Area Christian Ministry.

The Sugarloaf Ministry (grandchild of Pastor Reid's initial vision) recently celebrated its 40th year with a vision to bring good news the Valleys and the Mountains. The Ski Club and the Ministry share a number of well-loved volunteers including Al & Alice Cole, Sonja Ducharme, Diane & Charlie Copeland and Marilyn Bain-just to name a few. It is this Ministry, pastored by the Revs. Pam and Earle Morse since 1990, which brings us Downhill worship on the slopes, two joy-filled Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Services and the ever-popular Easter Sunrise Service. It also provides chaplain services to the mountain and its guests and employees as needed, working with ski patrol and mountain management to provide practical and spiritual support during times of difficulty or crisis.

The Chapel is also utilized for other community events including weddings, funerals, CVA graduations and much, much more! The Richard Bell Interfaith Chapel reflects the best of Sugarloaf Community spirit. Come on in!

Pam Morse  
Co-pastor, Sugarloaf Christian Ministry  
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# “Beware the Ides of March”

By Bruce Miles

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On March 15, Maine Governor Janet Mills declared a civil state of emergency enabling her use of emergency powers to enhance and expedite the state's response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Sunday morning, March 15, 200 started out not unlike any other winter Sunday here at Sugarloaf. 58 ladies were starting in the Giant Slalom on the last day of a 4 day series of FIS Alpine races. The men were competing in their series at Gore Mtn New York.

Volunteers and Competition Center staff were busy on the hill. The mountain was full of guests. The day was partly sunny with 20-35 mile an hour NW winds and temps in the teens and low 20's. Little did we know that March 15 would be the end of the 2020 ski season.

The weekend had been filled with conversations about what was going to happen with the spread of the Coronavirus in the US. We sensed that a crisis was building. Swiss and French ski resorts had closed for the season by March 14. It seemed like Europe was in the middle of a health nightmare. Like dominoes, countries were starting to go into lockdown across the continent. On March 14 several Colorado ski areas announced closing for a week and then shortly after closed for the season.

WSKI had their morning show from 7:30 to 9:00 and there was no discussion of ending our season that day. Then the proverbial shoe dropped. Late morning the announcement was made that Sugarloaf would be closing for the season that afternoon. The Governor was preparing to have a briefing on the status of Covid-19 in Maine.

Around 2pm the race successfully came to an end and one race, while returning her bib, was heard saying. "I just raced in the last ski race in the world for the 2020 season." She was not far off. Russia was the only country that was still running ski and snowboard competitions and they ended March 20.

At the end of the day a few volunteers gathered in the ski club office for a little socializing and the conversation mainly centered around the surrealness of the day. We seemed to be on a fast moving train with outcome of the trip being a real mystery. Little did we know that would be our last social gathering of the kind for quite a while.

As we learned more about Covid 19 it became apparent that our day to day activities were about to face big changes. As the state shut down we were advised to limit our exposure to others who might be carrying the virus. We were glued to the news as we watched the number of cas-

es around the world and our country grow at an alarming rate.

The week after the mountain closed and people went home a reversal of the exodus happened. Many of the seasonal homes started to have cars in their driveways. People were fleeing the more congested areas of our state and others to come live in our more rural area. Although we could not ski or ride on the mountain we could still get out and enjoy open spaces this area has to offer. Some of the X-Country trails and the Narrow Gauge pathway were kept groomed. There was quite a bit of daily activity on the trails. As the snow melted away and the biking and hiking trails became open we noticed a lot more people around than was usual for spring in the Carrabassett are. And the people stayed. Many found out they could work from their homes throughout the summer. As concern for what the fall would bring was building several families decide to stay and enroll their kids in local schools.

As we look ahead to the 20-21 ski season one thing we will be sure of is that it will be like no other we have experienced. We have been told that the future is in our hands and that we just have to remember to, wear masks, keep our distance and wash our hands to help keep the virus from spreading while we wait for a vaccine.

Sugarloafers are known to have a reputation for being a generous and caring family. I am convinced that these traits will help us have a safe and successful season as we do what is necessary to keep ourselves and other members of our Sugarloaf family safe this winter.

Stay well and have a great season.

*This article was written in the Fall of 2020. With help and patience of many Sugarloafers we got through the very unusual season of 20-21*

*Sunday, December 11, 1977: Good snow conditions but 22° below zero and a stiff wind. The Gondola to Mid-Station was the best bet, just to stay out of the wind and cold. On the way out Mike Gammon gave us a grand tour of his impressive new Ski Rack, which opened this weekend on the Access Road.*





*Making use of the many hand sanitizers that will be around the mountain.*



*Winter 2021 Slip Crew volunteers masked up and ready to go. Left to right: Russ Drechsel, Peter W Smith, Joe Tutlis, Chris Prudente, Tom Hanson, Richard Hawkes, Dave Mills, Kelly Dooling*



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*Saturday, December 8, 1979: Skiing for the first time of the year on a patch of manmade snow from Peavey down. The Ski Rack had given away some 8,000 free passes so the patch of snow was jammed with bodies. This evening we went to Trails End with Dick and Jackie Keenan, chatting with King and Jean Cummings, and Pat and Tom Tufts.*

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# The Sugarloaf Ski Club Classic Golf Tournament

Joe Tutlis & Patrick Willihan

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The Sugarloaf Ski Club Classic is Sugarloaf's longest running golf tournament. This event has a long and storied history. Originally it was named the Ayotte Golf Classic and it was created to honor local store-owner Dick Ayotte who was tragically killed in an airplane accident in 1981 along with entertainer Jud Strunk. Dick's wife Martha died from cancer in 1988. Dick & Martha believed that local youth should have a chance to ski and this scholarship was to support this belief. The tournament is now known as the Sugarloaf Ski Club Golf Classic and it is an important fund raising event for the Dick and Martha Ayotte Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund is one of the resources the ski club uses to help defray the cost of skiing, snowboarding, and racing for youth. The Ski Club distributed over \$89,000 in the 2023/2024 ski season and has budgeted over \$96,000 for 2024/2025.

Before the Sugarloaf Golf Course opened in 1985 the Ayotte Classic was held at Mingo Springs in Rangeley and at the Augusta Country Club. Since 1985 the golf tournament has been held at Sugarloaf. In 1990 John Beaupre and Bob Thomas acquired Ayotte's store and continued holding the event and managing the scholarship fund. Proceeds from the tournament benefited the Sugarloaf Regional Ski and Education Foundation. The SRSEF, which was founded in 1968, was a fundraising arm of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club. In 2009 \$66,000 from the Ayotte Classic was transferred to the Maine Community Fund to ensure the continued growth of the fund. Today that fund is over \$176,000.

In 2016 the Ski Club took over running the tournament and in 2018 the name was changed to reflect our management of the event. In 2018 the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club along with the SRSEF was reorganized into a 501(c)3. This new entity is now known as the Sugarloaf Ski Club. Our mission is to provide the opportunity for all youth to participate and excel in skiing and snowboarding, promote community building events, support competition and preserve the history and heritage of the mountain.



*The Gifford Brothers have supported the Sugarloaf Ski Club for many years and in many ways.*



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# Making Kingfield Home

By Mary Nodine

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When I was growing up, weekend skiing was as normal a part of my winter routine as going to school. We sampled a variety of the many New Hampshire and Maine areas within a couple hours of our Portland home - Shawnee Peak and Cranmore were staples. For a few years we bought discount ticket books that led us to sample many of the lesser-known Maine hills, which ensured that my siblings and I became adept at riding t-bars. Most of the time, we'd take day trips, setting our clothes out the night before so we could roll out of bed bright and early to stake out a decent corner of the lodge for our stuff. But occasionally, we'd head to Sugarloaf for a long weekend or a vacation week. My dad skied here regularly while attending Colby College in the late sixties, and he passed down the Sugarloaf bug to all of us. It was clear that this place was special - the endless cruise of Tote Road from the summit, our pride at braving White Nitro for the first time, the thrill of riding the Gondola, the glorious Snowfields in the spring.

We committed to Sugarloaf once and for all when my parents bought a condo on Deer Mountain Road when I was in eighth grade. Every winter weekend that year, we loaded up the car after school on Friday and headed up to the mountain. After one winter

dabbling in ski racing, I moved on to the junior instructor program. I taught three-year-old never-evers on The Birches and chased a group of savvy eight-year-old Bubblecuffers all over the mountain in my two years as a ski instructor. My younger siblings attended and excelled at CVA, but for me, skiing was a default - it was part of my life because it was what my family did, but it didn't run deep in my blood. By the time I went to college in Boston, I was excited to make my own weekend plans.

For the next several years, my skiing went dormant as I navigated college athletics, starting a career, and completing graduate school. It wasn't until I spent two years in Colorado in my twenties that I really appreciated the gift of all that skiing I'd done as a kid. The gnarly conditions I'd mastered at Sugarloaf - icy steeps, tight trees, solid bumps - made the chutes and bowls out west a piece of cake. Skiing felt like an adventure of my own making for the first time, a tool I could use for enjoying the mountains and spending time with my friends outdoors, with the occasional thrill of adrenaline.

I eventually moved back to Boston, a practical decision that allowed me access to an engineering job within driving distance of my family in Maine. I met and



Betsy on the "Mom, Mary and Dad, Don T Bar," and a sleeping Harry in the backpack.

*Friday, December 19, 1980: Dick and Jackie Keenan started the weekend with a Christmas party at their house in Kingfield. Tiger Bragdon provided the horse'erves and served as bartender for 50-60 people, including Ron and Sally Smith, the Win Robinsons, various Winters, the Cullenbergs, the Chip Careys, the Abbotts, Leo Tague, Pres and Gail Jordan. The Party went on until nearly 3:00 a.m. Saturday, December 20 1980 was cold and windy 5° below zero at the base at noon.*

married my husband, Don, who loves winter and the outdoors every bit as much as I do. We crossed country skied around the urban woods of the Middlesex Fells, adventured into Baxter State Park in the dead of winter, and braved the weekend rush to go to Sugarloaf a few times each year. We had two kids. And then the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

In March of 2020, the world shut down, and we were confined to our two-bedroom apartment in Winchester, Massachusetts with two jobs, two-year-old Harry, four-year-old Betsy, and no child care. We made a schedule, trading off work hours with time spent exhausting the kids outside in hopes they would nap as long as possible. We sanitized our groceries, tried not to breathe in the shared stairwell of the building, and wondered whether it was safe to go to the playground. We were grateful for our health and safety, but we also wished for more space.

Meanwhile, up north in Carrabassett Valley... Since my parents were empty-nesters, they had been spending as much time at the Loaf as they could, as

my dad worked toward his lifelong goal of skiing 400 days in a single winter. But a couple weeks after the mountain shut down due to the pandemic, my parents offered to move back to Portland so we could borrow their condo to get a change of scenery and spend some time away from Boston. We didn't need to be asked twice. We packed up on Sunday, March 29 and drove up to Maine in a snowstorm, planning to spend the week.

We weren't about to let that spring snow go to waste, lifts or no lifts. Don fashioned a towable seat for Betsy, dubbed the "Mom and Dad T-bar." After work the next day, we put it to the test. Don carried Harry in the backpack and I towed Betsy, and we skinned up condo cross cut to the base of King Pine. Betsy got the first fresh powder of her life, whooping all the way down.

One week turned into two, and we wound up staying far longer than planned, through the snowiest spring we'd seen in our adult lives with storm after storm throughout April. As the skiable snow migrated

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higher and higher up the mountain, our weekend skinning adventures got more and more ambitious, and we eventually towed the kids all the way to the summit. A high point of the spring was May 9, when we got over a foot of light powder overnight. Don and I each took a solo run that morning. It was incredible skiing, and surreal to have it all to ourselves. It was heartbreaking, also, to imagine what a different place the mountain would have been that spring, had it been open for everyone to enjoy.

Meanwhile, we were finding a lot of other things to enjoy about living in the Sugarloaf area. We loved having nature so close at hand, with mountains and hiking trails right outside our door. Don did the grocery shopping and looked forward to his outings to Mountainside Grocers, Mainely Provisions, Western Maine Market, and especially Jordan Lumber, where he'd see the same friendly faces over and over – a refreshing routine in a time of so much isolation.

When the snowstorms finally wound down and the black flies emerged, we moved back to Winchester and the challenges of parenting and working in our small space. As 2020 wore on, Don and I began to address a challenge we'd struggled with for years: we didn't want to stay in Massachusetts, but we weren't sure where to live instead. Prior to 2020, we'd looked at job opportunities and communities across New England, with nothing ever falling into place or feeling quite right. Covid opened up the possibilities of remote work for us, and we realized we could consider moving anywhere. In the winter of 2021, Don suggested we consider moving to Kingfield. We'd enjoyed the atmosphere of the town when we stayed in the area, and it would get us close to Sugarloaf and my family while still having a year-round diverse community, a walkable neighborhood, and a school right in town. In the summer of 2021, we took the leap and bought a house on High Street.

Three years later, we love our life in Kingfield. We enjoy living and raising our kids in a small town with

a slower pace of life, where grocery shopping becomes a social outing, we can walk to the bank, post office, and library and be home in less than 15 minutes, our car gets recognized and waved at as we drive along 27, and we can count on a visit with friends any time we go to Rolling Fatties on a Friday night. We notice how the light and weather look different on the Bigelows each time we leave our driveway. We love being able to drive 20 minutes to hiking and biking trails that people drive four hours to access from Boston (and that's with no traffic), and we enjoy portaging our canoe from our house to the Mill Pond for a paddle on the Carrabassett after school.

And of course, we appreciate our access to the best skiing in the northeast, at Sugarloaf, where Don and I are sometimes the youngest Superquad riders at Friday morning opening laps and we're regulars when school is closed for snow days. We especially enjoy Sunday afternoon skiing when our kids participate in the Boomauger program with all their friends from school, and Don and I enjoy the shortening lift lines as many Sugarloafers head back south for the week – just like I did every Sunday as a kid. Before living here, I experienced the mountain mostly at its most popular, and it was wonderful. But being a local and feeling like Sugarloaf is ours to enjoy after the weekend crowds go home, makes it even more special.

One tradeoff, of course, is that when we need to travel....as they say, you can't get there from here. I travel frequently for work, so the distance from larger cities and airports can certainly be a challenge, and some of my colleagues don't understand why I would choose to live so far from "everything". But each time I turn right on 27 in Farmington, no matter how late at night, I pinch myself as I'm reminded again that I get to come here and be home.

Now, if only Mother Nature would give us another spring like 2020...

*Saturday, March 20, 1982: Great skiing on a beautiful spring day. Lunch on the front deck with Heine and Sharon Merrill, Norton Luce, and Dick Crommett. Supper at the Valley Touring Center, hired for a 50th birthday celebration for Bernie Carpenter, Rolley Weiman, Dick Murphy and Kay Webster. Dan Carpenter provided the music.*



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# The Podium Project

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In 1970 Tom Reynolds Supervisor and head coach of our racing program expressed the need for a dedicated training lift of some sort. The estimated cost of it would be around \$5,000 which was a formidable sum for a then 1 year old foundation to raise. This was the first formal mention of the desire to have a training lift

In the Spring 1970 the SRSEF hired Ned McSherry to be program director. In his report to the Foundation in Spring 1971 he reiterated the need for a training lift, One thought was relocating the number 1 tbar ( now skidway chair) and putting it on side of gauge Kangaroo Hill area. This was just one of many ideas floated over the next 4 decades.

In their 1974 Spring reports to Foundation Directors. Head coaches Jeff Lathrop and Peter Smith continued advocating for a training lift and dedicated slalom hill for training.

In his 1975 report to directors, John Diller, then head Freestyle Coach stressed that a dedicated training lift would help both the racing and freestyle groups. Larry Mahaney, then Foundation President in his annual report also pointed out the need for a dedicated training lift. His report stated "In that we feel it is critical for the continued development of our present racers and for the future of ski racing in the state of Maine, we are proposing a tbar be erected and to the west of the lift, the trail would be widened to accommodate a training area for Freestyle moguls as well as racing"

The Summer of 1979 brought the cutting of the first phase of Competition Hill. It was from Tote Rd Crosscut to bottom of Kangaroo Hill level. (current PEEVEE Xcut) While walking through the woods flagging it out, Peter Smith, John Diller and I talked about how great it was to be finally getting a dedicated training hill and the hope that in the near future a training lift would accompany it.

Fast forward 40 plus years and following much discussion of the subject, the ground was broken in the Summer of 2022 for the long awaited CVA/Colby train-



*An aerial view of the Beth Kubik Training Venue.*

ing lift.

The Podium Project is the result of a partnership between CVA, Sugarloaf, the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Colby, and the University of Maine at Farmington. The project took two excellent training hills, Narrow Gauge and Competition Hill, to the next level by installing state-of-the-art snowmaking, expanding hill space, and installing a high-speed surface lift. The CVA/Colby T-bar opened in December of 2022. The venue is now named the Beth Kubik Training Venue.

To make this project a reality, over \$1,600,000 was raised through individuals, organizations and companies for the venue and the venue name.

For the last two seasons It has been a game changer for our programs. Training has become much more efficient and the kids and coaches are loving it.

*Saturday, December 18, 1982: The first day for a new ski school program called Bubble Cuffers, organized by Marcia Godfrey, in part while sitting at our kitchen table. The landscape was absolutely bare except for rain-soaked, frozen man-made snow on the Narrow Gauge and Boardwalk.*

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# Local Businessmen Look Back on 35 Years in the Valley

*By John Beaupre*

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John Beaupre and Robert Thomas started a thirty-five-year entrepreneurial career in the Western Mountains of Maine on June 19, 1989, by purchasing Ayotte's Country Store in Carrabassett Valley! As University of Maine grads, lifelong Maine residents, and Sugarloaf enthusiasts since the early 70s, it was a dream come true opportunity to move to Carrabassett Valley and venture down a path of "Your life will never be the same."

The Valley was a different place back then and business was quite lean in the offseason months, but we worked tireless hours with very few employees to get by. But it was obvious from day one the local community was very supportive and Sugarloafers were a diehard bunch who helped us get through our first few years!

In 1994, we were approached by SMC President Warren Cook about developing the land adjacent to the Sugarloaf access road along with Tom Blackburn to build a grocery store and automotive facility that was much needed along with the growing resort and community. We opened the doors to Mountainside Grocers on December 26, 1995, and it became apparent that we were going to be successful in this location and that Ayotte's would continue to succeed as an Agency Liquor store and spirits provider to area bars and restaurants via the State of Maine.

We continued to grow through the late 90s and into the 2000s with amazing support of our fellow Sugarloafers and the first signs of four-season activities in the region. It remained a tough, hands-on business but the joys of being in a community of outdoor recreation surrounded by fun-loving people made the personal sacrifices seem worthwhile. We continued to bring on more employees and grow



*John Beaupre and Bob Thomas*

our businesses through better merchandising, vendor support, and, obviously, customer loyalty.

In 2002, we teamed up with Sugarloaf to take over the lease for Sugarloaf Groceries at the base of the mountain in Village West. Also, around this time we bought out Mr. Blackburn to take over the automotive location at the bottom of the resort to round out our Carrabassett Valley real estate portfolio.

In 2008, we were approached by Franklin Savings Bank to purchase Anni's Market in Kingfield which had closed its doors. With some creative negotiation and extensive renovations we re-opened the store in March of 2009 and it became apparent that it was an ideal addition to our existing stores. This location broadened our scope into a different deli-oriented



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

**~ SKI WICKED FAST ~**



*Saturday, January 29, 1983: Skiing was good on the only three upper trails that were open. Tonight we ate supper with Heine and Sharon Merrill and then went up to a Calcutta Night, a fund raiser for the Ski Educational Foundation.*

store, far less seasonal, yet the same customer loyalty we have been so blessed to have received all these years later!

Our businesses and communities were enhanced by the Boyne acquisition of Sugarloaf in the 2010s and a real feeling of stability and real estate growth took over the region. Our customer demographic and volume was changing and growing as outdoor recreation was becoming more important to families and professionals all over New England. We all know the pandemic changed the way life as we knew it, but “community minded” stores became vital to the rural communities around the country and we were no exception. Carrabassett Valley became a bustling family-oriented place and we were right in middle of the sudden changes.

In 2020, as marijuana was becoming a legal commodity, we pursued and obtained the first retail marijuana license in Carrabassett Valley history and opened a store at our Ayotte’s location. Unknowingly, it proved to be the first domino to our eventual retirement as we were suddenly courted by would be partners and successors. Our businesses had solidified into vibrant, year-round, and growing locations in our attractive locations and communities.

Over the last three years, we have slowly sold off our locations. As we reflect on an amazing thirty-five-year journey in the Sugarloaf area, we know that we have been enormously blessed to have raised our families here, experienced a quality of life second to none, and been unconditionally supported by millions of customers coming through our stores for decades.

On behalf of my partner Bob Thomas, we are enormously grateful to all our amazing hard-working managers and employees who supported our efforts in being good community stores all these years. We have been so fortunate to call this area our homes and place of businesses, have thousands of friends and diehard supporters, and eternally GRATEFUL for our fellow Sugarloafers and valued customers since 1989!

Respectfully, John Beaupre  
Sugarloafer since 1971, former Valley storekeeper, husband to Tracy, Dad to Nicole, friend to many, & Carabassett Valley selectman for twenty-four amazing years)

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*Saturday, March 31, 1984: Skiing and lunch on the front deck of the Base Lodge with Norton Luce and Dick Crommett. Tonight we attended the Bubble Cuffer banquet held at Gladstones, the restaurant located above The Bag.*



## Over 130 local kids participated in the 2023 Boomauger Ski & Snowboard program. Thank you “King’s Kids” Supporters!

### For local kids ages 5-15

In 2018 we launched a new program with a generous \$500,000 gift from the H. King and Jean Cummings Charitable Fund. This gift is the foundation of an endowment fund ( now at \$1.3 million) for the King's Kids initiative to help kids ages 5-15 in Franklin and Somerset counties learn to alpine ski, snowboard, and nordic ski and to support other local initiatives. For a list of donors visit our website.

### Fifth season accomplishments

Winter 2023 King's Kids funded the following:

- Kids from RSU 58, RSU 74, Stratton, and Rangeley participated in the 8-Sunday PM Boomauger program through the Sugarloaf Perfect Turn Ski School. King's Kids underwrote over 75% of the cost of this program, including lift ticket, lessons, and rentals. Each child only paid \$40 for the entire 8 session program.

- King's Kids assisted the Titcomb Mtn. Ski & Snowboard programs

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- All volunteer run Baker Mountain in Moscow and Spruce Mountain in Jay were given funds by King's Kids..

- Many local children received scholarships to Sugarloaf Mini & Bubblecuffer programs (in addition to significant monies from other club funds).

- We awarded several thousand dollars to Stratton and Mt Abram Schools to help with middle and high school ski teams.

### For a third season:

We launched a Nordic Boomauger Program at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center. For just \$1 per session, kids received lessons, trail access and rental equipment for eight Sunday sessions. Over 20 kids participated.

*The Boomauger program provides local kids with 8 days of skiing or snowboarding lifts, lessons and rentals at the low cost of just \$40 for all 8 sessions. Nordic Boomaugers is only \$8*

*King's Kid's had a very successful fifth season*

*"My first, grade son is enrolled in the Boomauger program and I'm writing to thank you for the incredible opportunity you've given him and other local kids this year. Many thanks to the generous donor(s) who have made this program possible. We can't thank you enough."* Parent

*"We wanted to thank the Sugarloaf Ski & Snowboard School and the Sugarloaf Ski Club for offering the Boomauger program for local kids. The extremely generous donation from the King's Kids Fund made the program affordable for everyone and opened up skiing for a lot of kids."* Parent

*"It was fantastic. An opportunity he would not have had without this program. He definitely will do it again."* Parent



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# Remember your first day on the hill?

## Help give that feeling to another kid.

If you are reading this magazine, you have a passion for the sport of skiing and snowboarding. You know and understand how important the sport has been to you and your family. You can probably remember the first time you strapped on a pair of skis or a snowboard and experienced the thrill of gliding down the mountain.

The Sugarloaf Ski Club can help you share your love of skiing by enabling you to donate to our King's Kids Fund and helping local kids from Franklin & Somerset Counties experience the thrill that you have of skiing or snowboarding down the mountain. Your gift will be combined with others to help have a serious impact on

the cost of skiing & snowboarding for local kids. There are many ways you can contribute. The Sugarloaf Ski Club, a 501(c)(3) Maine non-profit organization, can accept tax exempt gifts of cash or stocks. Perhaps you would like to leave a legacy gift by including Sugarloaf Ski Club in your estate planning. It is very easy to have your financial manager name Sugarloaf Ski Club as a recipient of a small percentage of your estate, including any 401k funds.

Please contact the Ski Club if you have any questions on how you can help us share our love of skiing.



*Young skier circa 60's*

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# History of the Maine Ski and Snowboard Museum

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The Maine Ski and Snowboard Museum was founded in 1995 as the Ski Museum of Maine by a small group of friends from the Sugarloaf Ski Club. These Sugarloafers wanted to preserve the history of Sugarloaf and the Sugarloaf Ski Club, so they gifted to the Museum boxes of documents telling the story of the founding of the ski area and the Ski Club.

Within a decade the museum became a nonprofit corporation and obtained a grant to begin accessioning the initial collection of artifacts and documents. That modest beginning grew into a collection of vintage equipment, a library and a desire to share the history and heritage of playing on Maine mountains in winter. In 2006 the Board of Directors hired its first executive director and rented exhibit space in downtown Farmington. The Museum's first home in Farmington let us build exhibits and share our skisport history with the public. When the Museum outgrew that space, Dick Keenan kindly offered space in Kingfield and in 2009 the museum moved to Main St. in Kingfield. Here we grew our collections, honed our story telling expertise and built our base of supporters.

To share our stories more widely we opened a satellite gallery in 2018 at the Bethel Historical Society with a permanent "History of Oxford County Skiing" exhibit. We are working with Carter's Cross Country Center in Bethel to create an exhibit, opening this winter, focused on the history of cross country skiing. We continue to look for ways to better share Maine's skiing and snowboarding history and heritage. To better represent the skisport we changed the name in 2019 to the Maine Ski and Snowboard Museum.

Skiing and Snowboarding in Maine has come a long way since the first skiers in New Sweden enjoyed the winter of 1870-71. Along the way are amazing stories of how the sport evolved from hiking up and skiing local hills, to today's high-speed lifts, snowmaking and high-tech gear. The stories of skiing with straight skis, climbing to ski the snowfields, or riding a rope tow are at risk. When someone cleans out their grandfather's barn and throws away the old skis or when a skier passes away, we lose a piece of our history and our heritage.

The Museum's Hall Of Fame honors those individuals who made an impact on the skisport here in Maine. By documenting and sharing the stories of these Hall of Famers we are preserving both the history and the heritage of the people who built and guided the development and growth

of the skisport in Maine and beyond.

Many of those skiing and riding today are the result of multi-generational skiing and riding families and they should know what it was like "back in the day." It's important for younger generations to understand how the sport has changed and progressed so they can appreciate how fortunate we are to have the high-speed lifts, snowmaking, and groomers providing quality experiences on the slopes even when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

The Museum's collections of Maine Made wooden skis and leather boots, vintage clothing, and, of course, those boxes of documents telling the story of the early days of the Sugarloaf Ski Club, are all part of the history of the skisport in Maine.

The Mission Statement for the MSSM is simple: "Celebrate, preserve, and share the history and heritage of Maine skiing and snowboarding." We depend on your support as we work to preserve and celebrate the history and heritage of playing on Maine's snow-covered mountains. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one and help us with our Mission.

[www.maineskiandsnowboardmuseum.org](http://www.maineskiandsnowboardmuseum.org)



*This photo shows Stub Taylor (second from left), Slim Melvin (third) and Amos Winter (fourth) in the snow fields at Sugarloaf. The other two skier's names are not known. Stub and Amos have their climbing skins wrapped around their waist and Slim has his over his shoulders like a bandolier.*





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# A History of Maine Huts & Trails

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Maine Huts & Trails (MH&T) was an idea hatched back in the 1970's over cribbage games at the Red Stallion, and elsewhere in Carrabassett Valley, by legendary names who shaped the region as we know it. The idea was to attract people from near and far to experience the area's magnificent mountains, forests, and waters beyond Sugarloaf itself. The founders predicted that the additional visitors would both develop an appreciation of the landscape and contribute to the local economy. MH&T was the inspiration of people who shared a love of Sugarloaf Mountain and Carrabassett Valley and who passionately shared this special place with their families and friends. Sadly, some of the visionaries have passed on, but their legacies remain.



The hut and trail concept system began taking shape in the mid 70's as MH&T's founder Larry Warren, future hut builder Dutch Demshar, legendary wilderness guide and champion of getting kids outdoors Gardner Defoe, and builder and later benefactor Clem Begin, as well as others, were working in public-private partnership to create the outdoor center, the golf course, and other amenities to attract people to the area year-round.

During this period, Larry Warren had his eyes open for another idea that would attract people to the area as a recreation destination. MH&T's founders recognized that Maine's western mountains were endowed with natural features that could support an authentically Maine, world-class, hut system. By the early 90s, a bold vision was forming to create a 180-mile ribbon of trail from Maine's Mahoosuc Mountains to Moosehead Lake. This trail would connect 12 huts and would lead adventurers of all abilities through a magnificent landscape to gorgeous vistas, past waterfalls, and along spectacular lakes and river valleys.

To start bringing the vision to reality, Larry Warren formed the nonprofit Western Mountain Foundation in 2000 and began operating under the name Maine Huts & Trails. For six years, one meeting at a time, in every corner of the state, Larry presented his vision to business leaders, the governor and state officials, conservation leaders, and philanthropists. People came together around this vision, board leadership grew, and so did enthusiasm for the plan. The system would eventually roll-out in phases with Phase 1 connecting Carrabassett Valley with West Forks via three huts and 60 miles of trails.

Poplar Stream Hut, MH&T's first hut, opened on President's Day Weekend in 2008. Flagstaff Lake Hut, on the remote eastern shore of Flagstaff Lake, opened on Martin Luther King Weekend in 2009, and Grand Falls Hut, along the Dead River just above Grand Falls followed a year and a half later in October 2010. With enthusiasm building as each link in Phase 1 fell into place, Clem Begin, and his wife, Rolande, who are celebrated champions of Valley landmarks including the library, CVA, and the Bell Chapel, offered to sponsor a fourth hut to be built in Carrabassett Valley. Once again, the community came together, additional funding was raised, and the Maine Hut Trail was extended west, and Stratton Brook Hut was opened in December of 2012.



Maine Huts & Trails has become a destination, a brand, and an experience. Presently, with four huts and 80 miles of trails. MH&T has welcomed more than 76,000 visitors and 170 school and youth adventure groups from 46 states, 9 Canadian provinces, and 18 different countries. Articles in 460 different print and online publications have brought attention to the magic of MH&T as visitors spend time in Maine's western mountains and experience the remarkable sense of community shared by like-minded outdoor people assembling over a delicious meal or around a game at the huts.

Over the years the organization stretched its resources to build and steward comfortable huts; to maintain sophisticated off-grid energy systems; to support guests in the backcountry; to provide free access to trails and groom them in the winter; to hire and support full-time and seasonal staff; and to be accessible and as affordable as possible. As envi-





sioned MH&T was able to contribute significantly to the local economy and to get youth active in the outdoors. Endeavoring to accomplish all these objectives simultaneously was, indeed, an ambitious task.

By 2019, the push and pull between operating as a hospitality business and serving multiple non-profit missions was straining the organization's resources. The onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020 further amplified the organization's vulnerabilities. But Maine Huts & Trails had proven to be such an enriching experience—even life-changing—for tens of thousands of backcountry adventurers that it warranted the considerable effort required to rethink and revitalize itself. Thankfully, MH&T's wide-reaching community of local supporters, guests, volunteers, and charitable donors thought so too. While operating at significantly reduced capacity during the pandemic, staff and board took advantage of the window of time to plan and adjust the organization's model in ways that preserved what was unique about

the Maine Huts & Trails' experience, simplify operations, and focus on opportunities to elevate its mission impacts.

MH&T preserved the unique winter hut-to-hut experience between the December holidays and the end of March. Warm huts and delicious meals prepared by charismatic hut staff await cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and fat bikers. In the spring, summer, and fall individual huts are available for group rentals with primary focus on bringing together communities, promoting health and wellness, and welcoming diversity and inclusivity.

Since the organization opened Poplar Stream Falls Hut's doors in 2008, thousands of people have come to Maine Huts & Trails to unplug from their devices, interact with nature, and connect with Maine's outdoor heritage while learning from the landscape. Today Maine Huts & Trails is working in partnership with these leaders from across the state to make the trails and huts a gateway for youth and community groups to experience meaningful outdoor learning and recreation opportunities, bringing together community, promoting health and wellness, and welcoming diversity and inclusivity in the beauty of western Maine.

MH&T as always, believes deeply in the value of time spent in the outdoors with family and friends. We endeavor to make trails and lodges that complement the landscape, and that are inviting and accessible to people who might not otherwise spend a day or a night in the Western Mountains backcountry. We are working hard to remove barriers to enable less advantaged populations to experience the transformative benefits of time of Maine Woods.

We applaud the Ski Club for 75 years of contribution and inspiration to Sugarloaf's amazing skiing culture and community. And we invite ski club members, if they haven't already, to hike, ski, or snowshoe to one of the huts for a unique winter lunch experience, or better yet to treat yourselves to the amazing experience of an overnight in one of our warm huts with health meals, warm fires, and a memorable time with friends, old and new.

*Saturday, January 26, 1985: Good cold weather skiing with Neal Trask, Don Fletcher and Bob Hintze. We ate lunch in the top level of the newly expanded Base Lodge, but were run-out by the appearance of visiting dignitaries who were there to cut ribbons or something for a grand opening.*



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# Four Generations

## The Labbe Family Skiers

1966-2024 and Onward...

*By William and Pamalee Labbe Harpswell, Maine*

---



*Starting in the back left- Bill Labbe, Laura Labbe, Kimberly Labbe Mills, Scott Mills, Peter Mills, Heidi Samuel, Pappy Labbe, Pete Lockwood, Pamalee Labbe, Karen Lockwood, Becca Lockwood, Simon Labbe, Patrick Lockwood, Tom Olehowski, Will Labbe, Nate Olehowski, Ben Labbe, Elisabeth Cardali, Leila Cregten*

*Starting in the back left- Will Labbe, Rick D'Auteuil, Pete Lockwood, Nate Olehowski, Carrie Werner, Patrick Lockwood, Harper Cregten, Patrick Cregten, Leila Cregten, Henry Cregten, Elisabeth Cardali, Peter Mills, Darcie Mills, Merissa Newton-Mills, David Labbe, Pat Elie, Teri Labbe, Meredith LoSasso, Becca Lockwood, Laura Labbe, Bill Labbe, Pamalee Labbe, Pappy Labbe, Karen Lockwood, Kimberly Labbe Mills, Oliver Cardali, Blaine Cardali, Emerson Cardali, Evelyn Olehowski*



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## Four Generations

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1st: William (Pappy) and Pam Labbe

2nd: Karen Labbe Lockwood, Kimberly Labbe Mills and Bill Labbe Jr.

3rd Thomas Olehowski, Nate Olehowski, Becca and Patrick Lockwood, Heidi Mills Samuel, Peter Mills, Elisabeth Mills Cardali, Leila Mills Cregten, Ben, Simon and Will Labbe

4th: Evelyn Olehowski, Charlotte, Luke and James Samuel, Darcie and Aletheia Mills, Emerson, Oliver, Sophie and Collins Cardali, and Henry, Harper, and Hayes Cregten





*Nate Olehowski, Evelyn Olehowski,  
Karen Lockwood*



*Elisabeth Cardali, Oliver Cardali, Kim-  
berly Labbe Mills, Emerson Cardali*



*Left to right- Pappy Labbe, Pamalee  
Labbe, Blaine Cardali, Ben Labbe, Will  
Labbe, Bill Labbe*

## First generation Sugarloafers Pappy and Pam Labbe started skiing Sugarloaf in 1966.

Pam and I were lured to Sugarloaf in 1966 to witness and ride the Gondola. It was an experience that we have never forgotten.

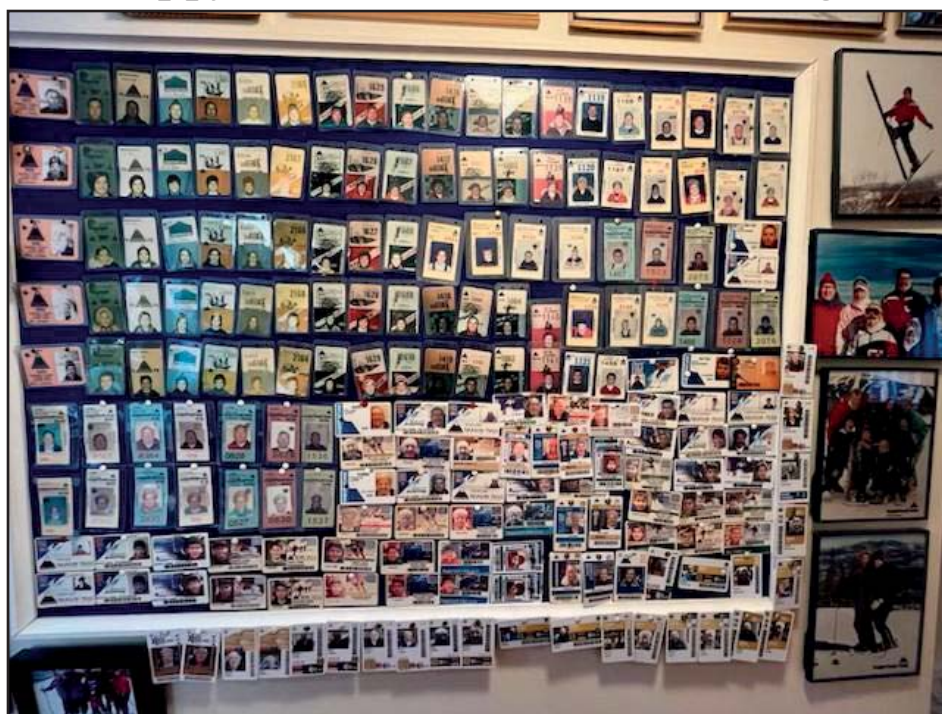
Later that fall we came back with friends from Brunswick and skied the first of December. We were hooked. We never missed a season after that. We were having so much fun we knew it was time to buy some land and build a camp. Little was known what the next 25 years would bring us.

Our three children skied with about 20 kids from the Bath-Brunswick area. Then came high school, then college, and finally marriage. This gave us 9 grandchildren. Seven of those grandchildren married and today we have 13 great-grandchildren.

Seven of our great-grandchildren are now out the door and are skiing. We arrive at camp on Friday and enjoy the next few days being with family. We drive up to the mountain and watch them ski. Delightful!! We join them for lunch in the King Pine Room. Who could ask for anything better?

Seven of our great-grandchildren are now out the door and are skiing. We arrive at camp on Friday and enjoy the next few days being with family. We drive up to the mountain and watch them ski. Delightful!! We join them for lunch in the King Pine Room. Who could ask for anything better?

Pam and I are now 87 years of age and are enjoying life to the fullest. Sugarloaf is still in our veins. We are happy about that!





## ADAPTIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

At the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center, our mission is to enhance the quality of life for people of all abilities through adaptive recreation and education programs. We have two locations in Maine - AOEC Carrabassett Valley where we provide low-cost, fully accessible lodging and programming, and our new AOEC Brunswick location which is a day-program and event center space, as well as home to other Maine nonprofits. The AOEC Brunswick is located on nearly 20 acres and includes adaptive trails, Maine Native Gardens, a clubhouse and more!

Our programs are year round, tailored to meet the needs of varying populations to have a fun and successful experience, while also creating community and a sense of belonging. Programs include: Horizons Skiing, Music, Sailing, Rock Climbing, Golf, Waterskiing, a Nordic Ski Clinic for Veterans, a Retreat for Adults with Spinal Cord Injury, a Summer Camp for Youth with Autism, a Retreat for Caregivers, a Craft and Social Weekend for people living with Aphasia, and MORE!

**Interested in learning more? Please visit  
[www.adaptiveoutdoorededucationcenter.org](http://www.adaptiveoutdoorededucationcenter.org)**



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# “A Changing of the Guard”

## New Carrabassett Valley Town Manager Hired

*By Dave Cota*

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As I retire and leave my position as Town Manager here in Carrabassett Valley this month (June 2024), I'm happy to report that the Select Board has hired Garrett Corbin to succeed me. Garrett has been employed for the past decade as an attorney and previously as a legislative advocate with the Maine Municipal Association. He brings a lot of knowledge and enthusiasm to the position and, working with our elected officials, Boards and Committees and our staff, he will help our community continue to grow and prosper. In the fifty-two years since the Town was incorporated in 1972, we have only had three Town Managers: Preston Jordan, Bill Gilmore and myself. I've had the honor and privilege of serving here in that position for past twenty-four years.

So much has happened in my tenure here and we have so many people and organizations to thank including the Sugarloaf Ski Club. The Town partnered with the Ski Club in providing some funding to help in building the on-mountain Jean Luce competition facility 2011. The Town financially assisted the Ski Club, Carrabassett Valley Academy and Sugarloaf in helping to fund both the new Bill and Jean Alford Competition Center in 2016 and the new competition T-bar construction in 2023. For many years, the Town has contributed funding to the Ski Club for their very important Ski Scholarship Program which has helped so many youths learn to ski and continue to pursue their dreams.

Our Town fathers (and mothers!) early on in the formation of the Town developed a philosophy to form partnerships to creatively invest in recreational amenities. These investments have provided year-round services and recreational opportunities for our many seasonal homeowners and our residents. The development of these amenities has provided additional incentive for increased private investment and growth which, in turn, has provided year-round employment and has significantly increased the Town's tax base.

In the mid 70's the original Touring Center and trails (now known as the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center) were built by the non-profit Western Mountain Foundation with help from the Town on what was then State-owned leased land. In the mid 80's the Sugarloaf Golf Course was built and funded by the Town and Sugarloaf. These remain as huge recreational anchors in our community.

When I arrived here in the year 2000, the Town was already on a very forward projection and I was very fortunate to become part of that effort. Since then, working with a progressive thinking Select Board, Boards and Committees, Sugarloaf, many organizations, a dedicated staff and many of you, the citizens and taxpayers of Carrabassett Valley, together we've been able to accomplish so much.

Some of the larger projects and initiatives since 2000 include the construction of the Anti-Gravity Center (equal partnership with CVA), construction of the Narrow-Gauge Pathway projects and related new Campbell Field and Munzer Recreational bridge projects, the new Samantha Wright memorial pool at the Town Park, building the new Golf Course Clubhouse, substantial capital projects at the golf course and at the airport, expansion of the Outdoor Center facility, construction of our new Library and Community Center, the 11,000-acre Crocker Mountain Conservation Project and the creation of what is arguably the most significant mountain bike trail system in Maine.

In addition, partnerships have also continued to provide important community services such as the Sugarloaf Security and Communications Center and our highly successful and popular 'Sugarloaf Explorer' Transportation System that was developed in 2007. Looking back (and ahead!) it's fair to say that the unique "Carrabassett Model" of partnerships and collaboration has been very successful in the development of our mountain resort community and continues today. The Town's partnerships and collaboration with Sugarloaf, CVA, Western Maine Transportation and all of our important clubs and organizations remain as important today as they have in the past. Much has been accomplished, but there's so much more ahead for this wonderful community!

See you on the hill and best to all of you!

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# A Town Built By Ski Bums

By Virginia M. Wright

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One day in the mid-1940s, a storekeeper, a drug-store owner, and a passel of schoolboys piled into an old Dodge panel truck and set out from Kingfield to look for ski terrain on Bigelow Mountain, the long, multi-summitted ridge in the Longfellow range. Chances are they didn't see another vehicle as they made their way north through the Carrabassett River Valley. In those days, it was common for an hour or more to pass between cars traveling the stretch of Route 27 between Kingfield and Stratton. With a combined population of 78, the townships of Jerusalem and Crocker-town had little to draw anyone who wasn't hunting, fishing, or working for Dead River Company or Great Northern Paper, which owned nearly all the land.

The explorers almost certainly saw horses, however. When they turned off Route 27 at the shuttered Lawrence Plywood mill, they followed dirt County Crosscut Road (now Carriage Road) past a red barn and pasture where Dead River kept a few dozen draft horses used to drag logs out of forests and deliver them to the trucks that would carry them to mills in Madison, Farmington, and Stratton.

No lumber was being sawn in the valley anymore. Dead River used the retired plywood plant for storage, and its land supervisor, Ken Packard, garaged his 1931 Model A roadster there. When he wasn't managing the independent "jobbers" who cut and hauled trees on Dead River's timberlands, Packard cruised the forest's logging tracks looking for the next year's cut.

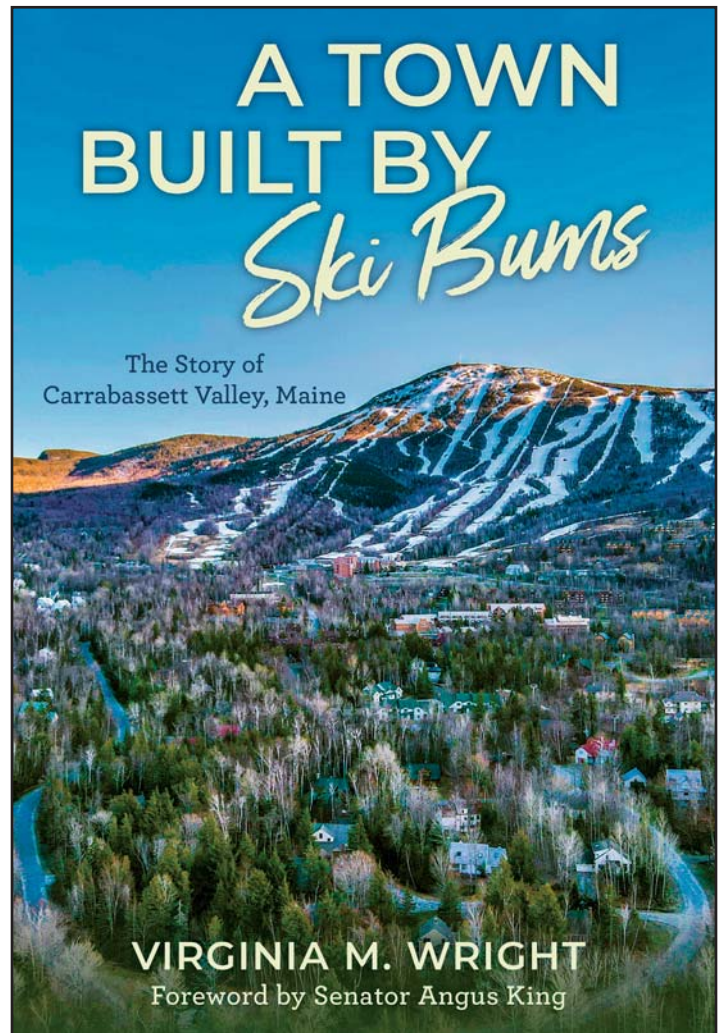
When the panel truck passed by the barn on its way to Bigelow Mountain, it was laying down a different sort of track, though no one, not even the truck's occupants, knew it at the time. Imagine the dust the truck's wheels spun into the air settling onto the valley and granting it a theretofore inconceivable future, one in which A-frames sprout along Cross County Road, airplanes land in the pasture, and in that barn, a young, ragtag group of college students, Maine Brahmins, tradespeople, suit-and-tie executives, and assorted misfits drink, party, dance, and plot a (very civil) rebellion.

The general-store owner who organized that trip to Bigelow Mountain was, of course, Amos Winter, the future father of Sugarloaf ski resort. And the "rebellion" that took place a quarter-century later was the plan, concocted over beers at the Red Stallion Inn, to get out from under state jurisdiction by forming a town. It's the key turning point in the forthcoming history, *A Town Built by Ski Bums: The Story of Carrabassett Valley*, written by Virginia M. Wright with the Carrabassett Valley History Committee and published by

Down East Books.

*A Town Built by Ski Bums* was conceived as a companion to John Christie's beloved *Story of Sugarloaf*. It traces Carrabassett Valley's history from the forces that created its mountains, rivers and valleys thousands of years ago through the lumbering and railroad era, the sporting camp decades, Sugarloaf's early years, and finally the creation and evolution of a town built on its residents' shared love for outdoor recreation. Senator Angus King, a longtime seasonal resident of the Valley, has written the foreword. *A Town Built by Ski Bums* is scheduled for release in early November 2024.

The book has a history of its own. It was first envisioned by the late Dick Crommett, a longtime member of Sugarloaf Ski Club, founding member of the Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association, and member of the Carrabassett Valley Planning Board. Dick, who moved to his longtime





seasonal home in Campbell Field in 1995 after retiring from a 40-year career in the paper industry, became interested in the town's history while researching his family's genealogy. He spent several years digging into the historical record, compiling a collection of hundreds of newspaper articles, deeds, and other documents. Shortly before his death in 2004, he wrote a timeline of significant events, with the entreaty, "As the author is not immortal, he hopes that others will assume the continuing task of collecting, presenting, and preserving town historical information."

And so, in 2017, the Carrabassett Valley History Committee formed. Paul Crommett donated his father's research, and the committee expanded upon Crommett's timeline and published it at [history.carrabassettvalley.org](http://history.carrabassettvalley.org). The website generated so much community discussion that the committee, in 2020, hired Wright, the former senior editor of Down East magazine. She did further research, adding more than 1,000 documents, newspaper articles, and interview transcripts to the committee's archive, and gathered the town's stories into book form.

The result is a portrait of a young town unlike any other in Maine and, perhaps, in the United States. Consider: With just 673 residents, Carrabassett Valley owns a Robert

Trent Jones Jr.-designed golf course, a 2,000-acre ski-touring and mountain-bike park, an airport, a riverside rail trail, an advanced fitness center with indoor climbing wall and skate park, a handsome modern library, and a park with outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, and playground. Yet the town's tax rate has never exceeded \$8.40. That's because Carrabassett Valley doesn't just look different from other towns; it does things differently. The two dozen ski bums who founded Carrabassett Valley in 1972 laid out a vision for an outdoor recreation economy achieved through creative investment, and townspeople have focused unwaveringly on pursuing it ever since.

— Virginia M. Wright



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# The Total Eclipse at Sugarloaf

## One Family's Story

*by Joe Tutlis*

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Dawn on April 8, 2024 revealed a glorious day with clear skies, just what we were hoping for in order to view the total eclipse of the sun from the top of Sugarloaf. Doris and I were joined by our oldest son, Chris, who had come up from Massachusetts for the event. We had spent the last two days enjoying the snow the late March and early April storms had dumped on the mountain. The news reports predicted that this part of Maine was going to be the place to view the eclipse because of the path of totality and the forecast for clear skies. Rumors abounded that there would be crowds besieging the mountain and Northern Franklin county. Little did we know how true that was to become.

We left our home in Redington North at 6:30 a.m. hoping to get a decent parking spot. When we arrived at Sugarloaf a few minutes later there was already a line of cars on the access road and we felt lucky to get one of the last spots in lot D at 6:45. Shortly after we heard reports that it didn't take long for cars to be parked on the access road all the way down to Route 27. We hung out in the Ski Club locker room at the Alford Competition Center until the lifts opened and then spent the morning skiing. After an early lunch at The Bag, we began our trip up to the summit.

The sky remained brilliantly clear as we made our way up the Superquad and then Timberline to the summit about an hour before the start of the eclipse. After dropping our skis alongside the Timberline trail, we joined the crowd and climbed up the rocks around to the backside. As we were relatively early, we found a great place to sit just under the very top and hunkered down to await the event. It was a little breezy, but since we were protected from the few rocks behind us and were facing south, we were comfortable. Occasionally, rime ice would blow off one of the towers and shower the gathering crowd. Ski patrol had the backside trail roped off and maintained a quiet presence as more and more people showed up. Many young families had children playing in the snow creating snow forts and sculptures and there was a drone flying overhead. It was a festive atmosphere filled with quiet anticipation.

At about 2:30 the eclipse started. Eclipse glasses were put on and over the next hour the sky gradually darkened as the moon moved in front of the sun. Just about 3:30 totality occurred. The moment was transformational. Instead of gradual darkness, the sky overhead became a dark blue and the horizon was golden yellow. Suddenly we could see the ring around the moon with red jets of light from solar flares streaming from the sun. Planets were visible in the afternoon sky. It was one of the most magnificent things we had ever seen and to view it from the top of Sugarloaf was magical. Totality lasted between two and three minutes and then the sky began to get gradually lighter.

As we started to move from the summit we became aware of the masses of people who were on top. Hundreds, if not more, crowded all parts of the mountaintop. We gradually made our way back down to the top of the Timberline lift, found our skis among the multitude stuck in the snow, clicked into our bindings, and slowly started down Tote Road Extension. The trail was mobbed like I have never seen before and Doris became separated from us. She eventually made it down Narrow Gauge while Chris and I kept on Tote Road looking in vain for her. When we came to Chicken Pitch, there was carnage everywhere. There were skied off areas in between large moguls and bodies strewn about. It was a sight to behold!

The last part of our adventure was getting out of the parking lot and going home. We tried to leave at 4:30, but there was not a car moving, so we went back up to the Beach and had a beer. At 6:00 we tried again, but to no avail. Not only were all parking lots and roads on the mountain overwhelmed with cars, but Route 27 was hardly moving due to the traffic. Cars were still in the same place in line as we had seen earlier. We returned to the base and found some food from a food truck, sat in the Sugarloaf Ski Club office and ate our meal, then at 8:00 we tried to leave again. Finally traffic was moving and we arrived home at 8:30. It was day that we will never forget!





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# Patrons

**Thank you to our members & friends for your support.**

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The Allen Family- Bob & Linda; Stacy, Brady, Zoe & Ella; Kelly

The Andersons- Eric, Betsy, Margot, Carolyn, Karl, & Robert

In memory of Dr. Dorothy & Dr. Donald Anderson

Robert Anderson

Keagan, Maeve, Daelyn, Erin & Brett Austin

Marc Ayotte and Pat Robinson

Scott & Mary Ann Beliveau

Tony & Karen Blandini, Thanks for the memories

In memory of Virginia 'Ginny' Bousum

Michael Boyson & Nancy Grant

Martha & Bill Bradley

Kathy & Charlie Brown

The Mary and Kevin Burns Family

Crawford, Robin, Colin, Jee, James and Erica Campbell

Carrabassett Valley Academy

The Clark Family

David, Elizabeth & Hudson Clark

Peter and Nancy Clark & daughters Abigail & Julie

The Andy and Judy Coburn Family

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Lloyd Cuttler and Family

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John & Paula Doughty and sons, spouses, grandsons

The Fahy Family

The Folgers, the Blakes, and the Bells

The Fox Family



*King Cummings & Bob Scott*

Meredith & Cooper Friend Family

In memory of Greg Foster

Kim & Paul Fritzson

Mike & Helen Gallagher & Kyle, Katelyn (Gallagher), & Krosby Fontaine

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The George Family

The Gifford Family- Donn, Linda, Jen, Amy, & John

Alex, Jen, Ethan, Dan & Joe Godomsky

The Haefeles, 3 Generations- Bill, Keven, Kelli & families

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Kyle, Megan, Anders, & Finn Hildebrand  
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Dave, Kim, Henry, Emma & Luke Kearing  
Bud, Wendy & Jessica Kellett  
Shelley, Dave, Noah & Charlie Koenig  
Jan & Steve Kolenda  
Laurel Lashar  
In memory of my husband coach, & ski buddy  
Regis F. Lepage  
Jim, Betty Ann, Ben, and Emily Listowich  
Bob and Barbara Luke Family  
John, Jane, Jake and Melissa Marden families  
Vicki and Peter Marion  
Team MacLeod  
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Bruce & Kathy Miles  
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Catherine and Ralph Nodine  
Gail Ogilvie  
The David and Karen Pier Family  
The Barry Potter Family, Bonnie,  
Jamie, Meneah, Zaebella, Ahraya  
Mike & Cheryl Rowland Family  
Steve and Laura Schaefer  
The Sevigny Family  
John & Jane Sexton  
Linda Sharpe  
In honor of our children and their  
great grandparents (Ben and Natalie  
Butler) who were original members  
of the Sugarloaf Ski Club. Lee B. Sil-  
verman  
Joan & Bill Smith  
Peter & Delinda Smith

The Swisher Family  
Bear & Gerry Thompson  
The Pete W Thompson MD Family, Mary, Eve-  
lyn, Blake, Pete  
John & Joyce Tobias  
The Derrick & Wendy Tooth Family  
Joe & Doris Tutlis  
Patrick & Peggy Willihan  
The Umscheids - Matt, Cynthia, Will & Hazel  
Peter Van Alstine & Betsy Henshaw, Here's to  
another 75 years!  
Peter, Christine, Hannah, & Hayden Van Als-  
tine  
Peter Weston  
Steve & Peg Whitcomb  
The Whitledge Family- Bill, Holly, Bill, Jim,  
Michelle, Emily, Ginny and James  
Bob and Shirley Zinn



*Forest Carey*

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# Sugarloaf Dan “Dano” Barker

## Inducted Into the Maine Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame

### Class of 2024

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In her letter of nomination for Dan Barker, Nancy Marshall wrote, “Over his 47-year tenure, Danny Barker has worked his way up the ranks from a Parking Lot Attendant to Head of Snowmaking and now Director of Facilities at Sugarloaf.

According to Richard “Crusher” Wilkinson, Vice President of Mountain Operations at Sugarloaf, Dan used to train all the new people in snowmaking all year round. It was always in his nature to stay at the mountain longer than he should have. He has always been dedicated to Sugarloaf and tenacious about overcoming every challenge. If something broke, he wouldn’t go home until he got it fixed. He often worked 20 hours a day. He sometimes would get a call from a member of the crew in the middle of the night, and he would drive from his home in Stratton to the mountain to fix things.

Dan says, “I started working at Sugarloaf in 1976 while I was still in high school. My job was parking and snow shoveling. In 1980, I started snowmaking. Wow, I loved the adventure and the challenge. I loved being outdoors in the cold, I enjoy the cold.

“I was making snow one night in the 90s and the northern lights were out. They lit up the Bigelow range. That night I did not care about making snow. The sky was glowing with green waves. It was a fantastic night.”

Marshall wrote, “Because of the often severe weather at Sugarloaf, and the ‘legacy snowmaking system’ which draws water from the Carrabassett River, working in snowmaking at Sugarloaf is a challenge. Also moving around the mountain, most often in the dark of night, wearing crampons and carrying ice axes, is always difficult and sometimes an adventure.”

Barker spoke about some of his adventures, “Once in the 90s we had a couple hundred yards of frozen pipe. We packed hay around it, doused it with some diesel fuel and lit it. And it made the ice come down the hill and when it hit the bottom it was amazing how much power was in the ice line. We got it thawed out and continued to make snow.

“I was working up on King Pine and went to blow out a line from inside a small valve box and the air hose snapped off and the hose started whipping around. I dove under the pipes in the valve box. The air hose was going wild with a piece of coupling on the end. That coupling might have killed me if it hit me. It destroyed the wood work and the paint on the pipes. I was lying in few inches of water for about a half hour near zero degrees outside and the valve box had no heat, so I was getting cold. Next thing the air hose was tangled up and it looked like a viper snake ready to attack. That was my opportunity to make a move to the air valve and I got it shut off.

Barker talked about the culture saying, “The culture we have at Sugarloaf with the snowmakers and groomers is a huge thing. It is a tight group, very friendly; they hang out together after work. It is a hard job, but it has to be fun.”

Dan said, “There is an art to making snow. Making snow on that mountain, with winter conditions, right where you need it is part of the art. It was important to understand the weather. I learned that if the Bigelows are really dark that meant rain. “I loved making snow. I loved being one of the foot soldiers carrying hoses, working with the guns, and making snow.”

Sugarloaf is a better place because of the love that Dan has for it and his job.



*Dan Barker making snow*



*Dan accepting the award*



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